

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 19th day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR Avargal, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

*Powers of district registrars.*

908 Q.—MR. A. M. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Registration) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that district registrars, though they are classed as gazetted officers, have been deprived of the power of appointing or transferring peons and night watchmen; if so, when; and why?

A.—In view of the need for enforcing economy district registrars have been required as a temporary measure to obtain the sanction of the Inspector General of Registration to cases of transfers involving expenditure under travelling allowance.

Mr. A. M. AHMAD MIRAN SAHIB:—"May I know how long the temporary measure will continue?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I cannot say that definitely at present, Sir."

*Acquisition of sites for labourers, Tanjore district.*

909 Q.—RAO BAHADUR V. APPASWAMI VANDAYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) how long the acquisition of sites for labourers has been proceeding in the Tanjore district and what is the extent and cost of the acquisition up to date; and

(b) what is the annual cost of the establishment for the same?

A.—(a) Acquisition of sites for labourers in the Tanjore district has been proceeding since March 1918. Up to 31st March 1922, 290.48 acres of land have been acquired for sites for houses, schools, wells, pathways, etc., at a cost of Rs. 2,50,569, of which Rs. 1,14,000 has already been repaid to Government by those for whom the house sites have been acquired. Figures for the period subsequent to the above date are not yet available.

(b) There is no separate staff for work connected with the acquisition of sites. The District Labour Officer, Tanjore, and his staff attend to this work as well as to other items of work relating to the amelioration of the condition of depressed classes in the district.

[19th March 1923]

*Overseers in deltaic areas.*

910 Q.—Mr. A. T. PALMER: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the deltaic areas overseers receive from the farmers yearly 'mamools' which sometimes amount to many thousands; and

(b) what steps the Government have taken to put an end to the mamools?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 194 W., dated 7th February 1921, which has been placed on Editors' table.

*Assignment of land to ex-war service men.*

911 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: With reference to Government's reply to question No. 619 at the meeting of this Council on 12th October 1921 regarding recruitment for military service, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many of the 29,000 combatants and 25,000 non-combatants have been provided with an assignment of 5 acres of wet or 10 acres of dry lands according to G.O. No. 870, Revenue, dated 14th April 1922;

(b) how many of these have since relinquished or alienated the lands, with reasons for the same; and

(c) if the Government have no information at present regarding these particulars, whether they will be pleased to call for a districtwar statement from the Board of Revenue and lay it on the table before the end of this official year?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

(c) The Government do not consider that it will be practicable to obtain the information and lay it on the table before 31st March 1923.

*Food-crop cultivation scheme.*

912 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(i) to call for and lay on the table a districtwar statement showing the total acreage of food-crop cultivation under G.O. No. 191, Revenue, dated 24th January 1921;

(ii) to state how far the members of the depressed classes are benefited by the above free food-crop cultivation scheme; and

(iii) to state whether it is the intention of Government to extend the benefit of this experimental scheme for five more years from fasli 1333?

A.—(i) A statement is laid on the table.\*

(ii) The Government have no information.

(iii) It is too soon to consider the question of further extension of the concession.



19th March 1923]

## APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to question No. 912 asked by Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 19th March 1923, page 2580 supra.]

*Figures for fasli 1331.*

District.	Extent cultivated.	District.	Extent cultivated.
	ACS.		ACS.
1. Anantapur ...	2,484.99	14. Kurnool ...	10,034.67
2. Arcot, North ...	2,844.38	15. Madura ...	1,540.54
3. Arcot, South ...	2,367.34	16. Malabar ...	1,994.55
4. Bellary ...	3,748.87	17. Nellore ...	12,566.71
5. South Kanara ...	596.88	18. The Nilgiris ...	982.74
6. Chingleput ...	144.97	19. Salem ...	4,083.67
7. Chittoor ...	2,241.77	20. Tanjore ...	96.78
8. Coimbatore ...	246.89	21. Tinnevely ...	204.48
9. Cuddapah ...	5,693.97	22. Trichinopoly ...	1,690.66
10. Ganjam ...	1,628.29	23. Vizagapatam ...	67.45
11. Godavari ...	441.22		
12. Guntur ...	2,154.68	Total ...	62,430.25
13. Kistna ...	4,573.75		

## II

## MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1923-24.

## DEMAND XVII—EDUCATION—NON-EUROPEAN.

## MOTION No. 156.

Rai Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the motion standing against my name which runs as follows :

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for direct grants to non-Government primary schools by rupee 1.*

In doing so, Sir, I know that a sum of Rs. 15,000 has been provided for grants for Indian orphanages. This amount is very small. Is it because only a few orphanages have applied or is it because a few have been selected out of the many that applied for it? Secondly, Sir, I should like to know the rate at which this grant will be disbursed."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—" I considered that this allotment for Indian orphanages was very low and I strongly urged on the Finance Department to provide for a larger sum. But owing to difficulties of finance a larger amount could not be put in. The second reason for this lump allotment is that in the case of the European schools the rate per head has been fixed; but in the case of the Indian schools the rate per head has not been fixed and enquiry is being made as to the cost of a pupil in an Indian orphanage. If more money is found to be necessary, a supplementary grant will be moved, in this Council."

Rai Sahib E. C. M. MASCARENHAS :—" I thank the hon. the Minister, and I do not press the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

[19th March 1923]

## MOTION No. 157. •

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDAR :—"I beg to move—

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 58,06,954 for primary education by Rs. 100.*

My object in moving this motion is to raise a discussion on the present condition of elementary education in the rural parts. Before I offer a few remarks, I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Members the distinction between the past and present state of mass education. No doubt, at present more money is spent and more elementary schools are opened. Statistics no doubt will be forthcoming to prove the rapid advance made by elementary education. But what I wish to lay special emphasis upon is the method adopted in these schools. The spending of more money and the production of statistics do not necessarily mean substantial improvement. So far as the District Educational Councils which have been created for the advancement of elementary education are concerned they seem to do more controlling work than anything else. The existing methods of instruction cannot be said to be satisfactory at all. A mere glance at the working of the elementary schools, their method of teaching, their text-books, their large number of holidays will convince any man of the elaborate uselessness of the system. It is a well-known fact that even with those abovementioned impediments the schools would get on very well if the teaching staff were well-selected and sufficiently paid. There is no use in increasing the number of schools with an ill-paid staff. The inspecting staff also seems to be inefficient, and much more in number than the case actually requires. No doubt there is a responsibility on the part of the local boards to rectify these defects. But everything is measured by a policy of maximum statistics with a minimum of funds available. Well, we have the usual excuse of 'financial stringency'. Should we not at least see that the money available from the Government and the local bodies is better utilized for the attainment of real benefits? What I wish to say is that immediate attention should be paid by responsible officers to better the present condition of things. I venture to suggest, Sir, that the old system, not of the palmy days but of some thirty years ago, may be examined again with a view to make the necessary changes so as to make elementary education more efficient, real and suitable to the needs of the country. I am of opinion that the old system of results grants is far better for the general advancement of elementary education than the present system. That old system, while improving the earning capacity of the teachers, greatly enhanced the interest taken by the teachers in the boys' education and its restoration will ultimately bring general improvement."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"I am glad my hon. friend has raised this question of policy with regard to the District Educational Councils and their work. I may inform my hon. friend that power is now delegated to the District Educational Council with regard to the methods that they should adopt for the expansion of elementary education. With regard to the selection of text-books, power is given to the District Educational Councils. They have also power in the matter of fixing the number of days the school should work. The hours of work also are left to their discretion. With regard to the holidays which should be fixed with regard to the schools and the approved number of holidays required for the local area they are left to the expedience of District Educational Councils. Again, Sir, power is given to the District Educational Councils to adopt a particular method of teaching also. Thus the rules framed under the Elementary Education Act have



19th March 1923]

[Mr. A. P. Patro]

given large powers to the District Educational Councils so that in the method of instruction that is to be given in the elementary schools constituted in a particular local area they may adopt any method and all that they have to do is to consult the inspecting officer. The rigour of the inspection that was urged before is now relaxed in a way so as to make it co-ordinate with the work of the secondary education, so that the rigour of the inspection is taken away, the influence of the District Educational Council is increased, and the popular element is brought to play with regard to the expansion of elementary education.

“My hon. friend has complained that sufficient funds are not allotted for the expansion of elementary education. No one is more regretful than I am in the matter of insufficient funds that have been allotted for elementary education. I hope, Sir, that in course of time it will be possible to allot larger sums for the purpose of elementary education. If our one idea is that knowledge is to be disseminated in the rural areas and that national education should be expanded, it is through the proper and efficient working of these elementary schools. I yield to none in the matter of making endeavours to get as much money as possible for the expansion of elementary education. I hope that in course of time it will be possible that we have large sums of money for this purpose. I therefore hope that my hon. friend will not press his motion.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“Sir, in supporting this motion for the reduction of the allotment for primary education by Rs. 100, I wish to place before this House certain questions of principle regarding which certain doubts have been raised. If these doubts are not solved in a satisfactory manner, there will be some difficulty in making rapid progress in the matter of elementary education. I quite realize that in the Budget for 1923-24 some increased provision has been made for primary education. But I wish to point out that with the scheme of expansion of elementary education which we all have set before us the provision made is hardly adequate to keep pace with the ever-increasing demands on elementary education. I may point out some of the changes which have been effected in the matter of expansion of elementary education. These changes deserve very careful consideration. We find even in the Budget presented to us that for the purpose of opening new elementary schools, a provision of 3 lakhs was made in the Budget for 1922-23, but it was omitted in the Revised Estimate. Nor do we find anything in the Budget for 1923-24 for that purpose. I understand from the hon. the Minister that it is a mistake. May I know what the mistake is?”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—“The money is distributed under various heads.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“Now what I wish to say is that so far as this particular item is concerned, there has been such a provision made for several years. There was a provision even during the pre-Reform budget; but that item has been now eliminated from the Budget. I quite realize that in doing so, consideration might have been shown to the grants made to local authorities for the purpose of opening new schools. Whether the elimination of this item from the Budget indicates any change of policy is a matter which requires some consideration. I may also point out that in the provision made for teaching grants to District Educational Councils, the

[Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu] [19th March 1923]

addition of Rs. 95,000 is not at all adequate for securing any expansion of elementary education. The slight addition made will not cover any scheme for the expansion of elementary education. Sir, the remarks made by the hon. the Minister for Education yesterday and some of the remarks made by the hon. the Finance Member in introducing the Budget, about the responsibility of local bodies in the matter of elementary education have given rise to misunderstandings and misapprehensions. It has all along been recognized that so far as elementary education is concerned, it is the essential duty of the State to provide adequate funds for that purpose, no doubt, utilizing the local bodies as auxiliaries for the purpose of achieving that object. Yesterday, the hon. the Minister for Education made a statement quite different from the one made by him last year. He said yesterday that it was the primary duty of local bodies to provide for elementary education. It is this question of policy which gives rise to some misapprehension. It will be remembered that this question of the duty of the State to provide all that is necessary for elementary education has never been questioned. Sir, may I remind the House of the fact that even at the time of the Coronation of His Majesty, that question was made conspicuous by the grant of 50 lakhs for the purpose of elementary education? It will be remembered that in the grants made by the Government of India, it was not, as has been pointed out by the hon. the Minister, that there was surplus from opium and that the Government of India not knowing what to do with it were giving doles for primary education. That view, I submit, is not correct. It was in pursuance of a definite policy that the Government of India were giving grant for purposes of elementary education, and not because there were heavy surpluses, and they did not know what to do with them. The statement of the hon. the Minister made yesterday, if accepted, will lead to several difficulties in carrying out our programme for the expansion of elementary education. It will be found that the grants made by the Government of India for the period from 1911-12 to 1920-21—a period of ten years—amount to about 160 lakhs of rupees. This comes to an average of 16 lakhs per year. It will be found that it is a substantial portion of the cost of elementary education incurred in this province and the Local Government was also making increased provision from 1911-12 onwards for the purpose of elementary education. The figures for 1911-12 to 1920-21 illustrate this statement. What is to be remembered in this connexion is that both the Government of India and the Local Government realized that the State must find funds necessary for the purpose of expansion of elementary education. Therefore, my hon. friend, the Minister for Education, should realize that it is more the duty of the State than of the local bodies to find funds for the expansion of elementary education. May I remind him of what he stated in his Ministerial speech delivered last year on the subject of education, at the time of the discussion of the budget? This is what he stated :

Sir, we have been urging times without number that the expansion of elementary education is an absolute necessity, that we ought to educate the people and the electorate who return us, so that they might understand the social, economic and political conditions of the country. We must carry on a programme of national education of the masses. In order to improve the conditions of the people and to develop elementary education, it is the primary duty of this Council and the country and the Ministers who represent the people, that they should devote all their energies towards the expansion of elementary education.

I do not know if the hon. the Minister has been carried away this year by the speech of the hon. the Finance Member. I think he must go back to



19th March 1923] [Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu]

the position which he himself enunciated last year and realize that it is the primary duty of the State to find sufficient funds for the expansion of elementary education."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I beg to support the motion of Mr. Vellingiri Goundar. I just wish to make a few remarks in regard to that motion. First, on a reference to page 138 of the Budget, we find that the amount under non-votable charges is Rs. 17,80,746 for 1923-24, whereas in the previous year, it was Rs. 464. I take it, Sir, that this represents the sum which the Government have promised to pay to the local boards which levy education cess,—a sum equal to that which the local boards levy, and that that sum comes to 17 lakhs and odd. Even so, I think the provision for primary education is very very small indeed. We know that the Government has agreed to pay an amount equivalent to education cess wherever levied. But that should be given in my opinion in addition to the usual contribution they were already making. Instead of that, what the Government have done appears to be to divert some of the amount which they were hitherto giving and to use it for the fulfilment of their pledge to pay a sum equal to the education cess.

"The second point to which I wish to refer is that the Government should revise their policy as regards the grant of Rs. 2 to the teachers. At present this amount is not proposed to be paid to any local body which is not prepared to find an equal amount out of their resources. This involves a considerable hardship in the case of the poorer boards. The Government, no doubt, say that they will give Rs. 2 if the board is able to find the other Rs. 2. But, do they think it possible for poorer district boards to find this amount? Therefore, the result in the poorer boards is that the teachers get nothing absolutely. If, on the other hand, Government make an exception in the case of poorer boards and give them Rs. 2 free of present restrictions, the teachers will have the satisfaction of getting at least Rs. 2.

"I would like to remind the hon. the Minister for Education in regard to these points of what he stated at the time of the last Budget. 11-30 a.m. He is perfectly aware that there are some boards whose general resources do not permit them to find these two rupees for their teachers. Knowing that, to disregard the request of the teachers and of the boards concerned for the unconditional grant of these Rs. 2 seems to me, Sir, to be somewhat unfair. And again, I would plead with the hon. the Minister for Education that he should not be content with giving an amount equivalent to the education cess in the case of the poorer boards. It was promised on behalf of the Government, I take it, by the late Director of Public Instruction that for every rupee the boards levied by educational cess the Government would give not one rupee only but at least two rupees. That promise remains yet to be fulfilled. These are the few points which I wanted to bring to the consideration of the hon. the Minister for Education."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I shall be very brief in my remarks. It is shown in paragraph 108 of the statement that there has been an increase of 40 per cent in the number of schools and 50 per cent in the number of scholars, and yet it has cost the Government only 15 per cent more than the previous year's expenses. So it is most unfortunate that only two lakhs are to be provided for in addition in the Budget. I hope the Government will reconsider the matter and give a larger sum for this.

[Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar] [19th March 1923]

"As regards the Educational Council, enormous powers have no doubt been conferred on it, but the Members are allowed very small amounts by way of travelling allowances. Besides, as the Members of the District Board are on the Council, the meeting of the Educational Council is so arranged as to coincide with the district board meeting, so that Members attending these meetings, which are held once in a few months, also have to attend the Educational Council the same day and they have absolutely no time to allot to the discussion of educational matters. Therefore what we want is more money by way of travelling allowances to these people. In the first year, there was only an expenditure of Rs. 500, that is, 40 rupees a month. The Council has got 30 Members and the forty rupees have to be distributed, with the result that these Councils meet only once in two or three months. When they meet, there are a number of questions to be disposed of. Therefore, the first thing required is financial assistance. It is very difficult at this late hour to say what can be done to get this finance. I can only make the suggestion to the hon. Members of this House and the new House that is to come into being that they will pay their best attention to this matter; and I ask the hon. the Minister for Excise, the Finance Member and other Members of the Cabinet whether they cannot see their way to allot a portion of the excise revenue for the cause of primary education. I know the excise revenue is tainted with a black sin, because it comes from the pockets of the poor and miserable, and I have heard it stated that people interested in elementary education will not at all be willing to reduce the drink evil if they are to get a portion of the excise revenue. The excise money comes from the lowest class of people who are illiterate and ignorant and I think to spend this money in enlightening the ignorant people from whom it is raised will be in the fittest of things. Therefore we shall be very glad to have an announcement as to whether the hon. the Minister for Excise has already moved on the lines indicated by me or whether there is any prospect of his doing so."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI:—"Sir, I want to say a word just in respect of the allowance of Rs. 2 that is being made by the Government towards the elementary school teachers. For about four or five years during the war Government have been enabling the local boards to pay at the rate of Rs. 4 for every teacher. Last year it was, that the Government issued a definite order, stating that they were not able to contribute more than Rs. 2 and that the local boards must make good the remaining two rupees out of their general resources, with the express condition that they should not draw upon the proceeds of the education cess which they might levy for recouping these two rupees. That is a clear hardship. If the hon. the Minister for Education cannot see his way to grant this 'two rupees' allowance unconditionally, the local boards will feel obliged at least to be absolved of this condition of having to find the remaining two rupees from the general resources. This is a point which I ask the hon. the Minister for Education to consider."

Diwan Bahadur R. VENKATARATNAM NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, after this somewhat detailed statement of enlightened public opinion on this question, I do not know what particular place there is in this discussion for the views of a mere teacher. Nevertheless, Sir, I may submit my humble views on this question for what they are worth. To me, Sir, as to the heart of every teacher, the demand for free and compulsory education, which is so insistently and so enthusiastically made everywhere, is a most welcome sign



19th March 1923]

[Mr. R. Venkataratnam Nayudu]

of the times. If I may say so, it is as though from the heart of the nation there is going up once again the ancient prayer of the land, *Tamaso ma jyōtin gamaya*, i.e., lead us out of darkness into light. It is really most refreshing; but, at the same time, it is just possible that we may, at times, in our enthusiasm, fail to be quite alive to some of the essential concomitants of this grand demand. So far as my knowledge goes, in almost all other countries that have accepted a programme of free and compulsory elementary education, that end has been reached after a series of successive stages of development, so that the final stage was a comparatively short step. But here, in this land, with our amazing amount of illiteracy, as we seek this ideal, we appear to be trying to make up, in one generation and at one step, the arrears of many generations. Consequently, it appears to me that this object, if realised in its fulness and in its ardour, will entail necessarily an amazingly large increase in the number of pupils receiving education. That will necessarily mean an enormous investment of funds. As the *London Times* said sometime ago, the educational scheme of this country should be planned on a gargantuan scale; the funds required will rise to a degree undreamt of hitherto. Therefore, the problem of funds will baffle all alike, the Minister and the public in general. That problem must be faced, if this question is to receive a satisfactory solution.

“The second point to which I would invite close attention is this: we all desire free and compulsory elementary education; but what are the finances, what is the nature, and what is the scope, of that elementary education which we all so eagerly ask for? It is just possible that in our enthusiasm we lose sight of that vital question—what is the kind of elementary education that the country needs? I am reminded, Sir, of a little incident in the life of the late Right Hon. Professor Huxley. He was very anxious to be present in time at a meeting; he thought it was rather late; so, as he jumped into his coach, he told the cabman to drive fast. But after a while he did not know whither he was going. He then said to his coachman, ‘where are you driving to?’ ‘I say, Your Honour, I am driving fast,’ said the cabman. Just so, Sir, it is possible we may be driving fast without noting whither we are driving. It appears to me that the general idea of elementary education comprises what is known as the three R’s. Sometime ago, I was reading a book on Japanese Education; I found in Japan, which had adopted the system of compulsory and free education, it was noted that in after-life a vast majority of the persons who had passed through the elementary education, had almost clean forgotten what little education they had received, so that what survived time was only a few of the songs learnt in schools. If that is going to be the net result of our scheme of free and compulsory education it ought to make us pause. We may devise methods such as are calculated to make the fruits of elementary education that we wish to impart more lasting and more directly beneficial to the country. Again, it will not do if the elementary education we are aiming at lies all within the ambit of the three R’s. That will not take us far. Elementary education to be useful and successful, as the *London Times* suggested, should be instrumental towards guarding India from the gravest peril of a modern state, namely, an uninformed democracy. If elementary education is to achieve that object, we should have a comprehensive scheme and curriculum of education. It should be brought into a close and vital touch with the practical and every-day life of the pupil. It should have a direct bearing on the economic, social

[Mr. R. Venkataratnam Nayudu] [19th March 1923]

and political conditions and environment of those who receive such education. That will call for a radical revision of the scheme of elementary education, which again will mean also a radical change in the type and class of the teachers whom we are to employ for imparting elementary education. Hitherto, Sir, the average kind of elementary school teacher might be best described in the words of that young and enthusiastic aspirant for a place in a high school, who went up to the head-master and asked for a post in the high school department and, when questioned as to what class he thought he would be able to teach, said that he had studied in VI Form, but had not been selected for the Matriculation examination, and he thought he could handle IV Form, as he was two years ahead of it! Hitherto, the majority of teachers employed in the elementary schools have been of the type of which I have seen some very interesting specimens. When I was chairman of the Primary Examination Board, in a certain district, for the same primary examination the teacher and the pupil appeared simultaneously! There should, therefore, be a radical change in our ideas of the requirements of the average elementary education teacher. All these considerations land us in this one perplexing situation. Where are the funds to come from? We require quite a mint of money to be able to work out this scheme. Who is to provide it? It is easy to cry like Kipling's beggar, 'pay, pay' to the Government. The Government has to pay so many; and the Government can pay, in any one direction, a very limited amount. It is quite easy to shift this burden also upon the already over burdened back of the local bodies. If I may draw an analogy from instances that are familiar to me, these bodies are like the intermediate student who has to study five different subjects, each of them under the control of a specialist or expert, who demands a certain irreducible minimum in his subject. If these subjects are to be properly studied at all and if the student is to score these five irreducible minima, even the maximum energy of the average student cannot cope with the task. I do not know if my memory is right when I say that there are similarly five grants for these

11-45 a.m.

local bodies to make and these grants between themselves are so large that these bodies cannot cope with the total demand. The solution has to be found somewhere. And while on this motion, Sir, not as a clever advocate but as a humble petitioning brother, may I invite attention, very serious and devout attention, to that subject which will immediately follow this debate, namely, the Religious Endowments Bill? And shall we not, Sir, in a real spirit of devotion, say that, as we tender these offerings to Him whom we believe to be the Giver of good, may we not annex a petition that by His Grace our offerings might be used towards what we, of this nation, believe to be the noblest of all charities, namely, *Vidyadana*?

MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Mr. President, on this motion I should like to say a few words, more with a view to draw the attention of Government to one or two points and also to get information from the hon. the Minister than anything else. So far as the masses are concerned, I do not think they worry themselves much about the success or otherwise of the Reforms, but they are very keen about education being taken to their very door. Every village longs for some knowledge, and every village wants some elementary school so that their knowledge may progress, and the nation may proceed along right lines, step after step. Immediate steps must be taken to bring about this consummation. And on turning to this item of allowance of two rupees to teachers in schools managed by local authorities



19th March 1923] [Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

at page 140 of the Budget Estimate, I notice with regret a retrograde tendency so far as the allotment is concerned. For in 1922-23, a sum of Rs. 5,30,000 was budgeted for and a substantial portion of the sum was spent that year, the actual amount being Rs. 4,46,000 which was Rs. 84,000 less than the budget provision. What do we find in the Budget Estimate that we are now discussing? We find not the figures of the original Budget Estimate nor the revised estimate but far less, only an allotment of 4 lakhs of rupees which practically comes to 75 or 76 per cent of the original allotment. That is a matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister.

"Then again, there is one other aspect to which I would like to solicit the kind attention of the hon. Minister. Notwithstanding the serious attempt made by the Inspector-General of Panchayats to persuade some of the mufassal municipalities to tackle the question of the introduction of free and compulsory elementary education, some of them have proved somewhat obstinate and declined to take up the question on account of financial stringency. I think it necessary that the Government should try to bring to bear upon these municipalities a certain amount of moral pressure and make it incumbent upon them to take up the question.

"Passing on to another item, Sir, namely the contribution to local authorities for the construction of primary school buildings, as against the allotment of Rs. 74,891 in 1922-23, I find a very very small allotment of Rs. 5,000 in the current year.

"There is only one other matter, Sir. As regards the contribution to the District Educational Councils towards establishment, the budget allotment for 1922-23 was one lakh, the sum actually spent was Rs. 63,000, while in the coming year a smaller amount of Rs. 60,000 is provided. I should like to have a clear statement as to whether the reduction is due to any idea or proposal to reduce the establishment or its salary.

"I expect the hon. the Minister to throw light on these three specific points."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Mr. President, whenever any question crops up as to extra expenditure in the case of any nation-building services, the Ministers are in the habit of saying that the Finance Member does not give them any money. We, Members of this Council, have nothing to do with the relations between the Members of the Cabinet, for the Cabinet stands as one and it is the business of the Ministers to find money either by retrenchment or by re-appropriation from the money of one department or another. We and the nation depend upon the Ministers for the building up of the nation, and how far they have succeeded in the matter is the question before us. We have nothing to do with the question whether the Finance Member has allowed them more or less money. Sir, it was said yesterday that elementary education is the first charge on local rates. This is a most astounding proposition. It is admitted in all countries that elementary education is a national service, and is a charge upon the nation's revenues and not upon the local rates. If the Elementary Education Act provides for some taxation, it is very very small; it is only to give an impetus to local bodies and not to make the local bodies depend upon the local rates for the expansion of elementary education in the area. If my hon. friend the Minister for Education would sit down and patiently examine the financial resources of the local bodies and the funds necessary

[Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju] [19th March 1923]

for the expansion of elementary education, he will find that the local bodies if left to themselves are not at all in a position to make any advance in this direction. Educational Councils have been created, but they are treated as mere post offices. For each item of expenditure the Minister prescribes the limits and says: 'You spend so much for grants-in-aid, so much for travelling allowances and so much for establishment.' This is not trusting the local authorities with sufficiently autonomous powers. We know that the financial resources of local bodies are limited; then why should not limits for each local body be prescribed for recurring and non-recurring expenditure and absolute freedom be given to it and to the District Educational Council to deal with the details as they choose? Take, for instance, the question of establishment. The Government fix the scale of establishment, the salary and everything else. Travelling allowances, of which my hon. friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar complained, are also fixed. What I suggest is this: take the average of the recurring expenditure, give the whole amount and leave the Educational Council to deal with it so as not to exceed the general limit. It would really give some real power to local authorities, and it is only thus that they can be made responsible for the expansion of elementary education, and not by asking them to do the work of mere post offices. Sir, in this connexion, I wish to question the policy of the Government in the matter of giving provincial grants to the local bodies in aid of the education cess they levy. If we read the Act, we find that the Local Government is by statute bound to pay to the local bodies at least an amount equal to that raised by them by means of the education cess. The interpretation that the Local Government is pleased to put upon this portion of the section is: 'You had better raise the local rate this year and utilize it; next year we shall give that amount to you.' I am not able to find how that is spelled out from the provisions of the Act. Why should the Government give this extraordinary interpretation? Sir, again, in the matter of additional grants for teachers another extraordinary step in financial control has been taken by the Local Government. The Local Government say: 'All the amounts which you raise by means of education cess shall be devoted to expansion of elementary education but out of this amount you should not spend anything for enhancing the salaries of teachers; if you do that, we shall not give you our promised half from the provincial revenues.' This, I say, is putting an extraordinary financial restraint on the liberty of local bodies. What does it matter to the Local Government whether they pay it from the general resources or from the imposition of the elementary education cess? I am not able to understand the various reasons that led the Government to adopt a policy of putting this sort of embargo upon the work of the local bodies and upon their freedom."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, the motion under discussion raises the whole question of the present policy of the Government in regard to elementary education. I should like to make one or two observations in the light of the remarks made by my hon. friends who have preceded me. Sir, from the speech the hon. Minister made yesterday it was not quite clear whether he expressed his own views in regard to the financing of elementary education or whether he was embarrassed for want of funds and driven perhaps to change the convictions of a lifetime in the matter of elementary education. Sir, my hon. friend at a time when he did not occupy the responsible position which he now does was very vociferous in this Council, very vociferous indeed for improving the pay and prospects of elementary



19th March 1923] [Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu]

school teachers. Speaking\* from my own recollection, I remember, on more than one occasion, how very anxious and persistent my hon. friend was that the pay of these teachers should be substantially increased. But, Sir, the taking up of his present office seems to have somewhat moderated my friend's enthusiasm for the cause."

The hon. Mr. A. P. PATRO :—"No."

Diwan Baffadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"My hon. friend says: 'No.' But we judge him, Sir, by what he proposes to do in the budget for furthering the cause of elementary education. We are not here to examine his mere desires, independent of his performances. And, judging from that broad standpoint, I regret to say my hon. friend has not taken effective steps to give effect to his long-cherished desire for the furtherance of elementary education. I am not now going into the figures. The whole point is what the duty of the State is in regard to elementary education. On that question, I trust my hon. friend will recognize that the Elementary Education Act which was passed in 1920 did impose on the State definitely and once for all the duty of furthering elementary education. It has created a special agency in the districts known as the District Educational Councils on which all the local bodies are to be represented. It has recognized the responsibility of the State to make a contribution of not less than half the expenditure on elementary education to local bodies who are to levy a local rate for that purpose. Sir, the whole question of the responsibility of the State for elementary education was gone into by the committee, known as the Financial Relations Committee, and it has been once for all recognized that elementary education is as it is in other countries a national or semi-national service and the local bodies are merely the agency to carry out the policy of the State in regard to it. Sir, so far as financial responsibility is concerned, it is true that local bodies have to make a contribution from local cess but the ultimate financial responsibility for supporting elementary education is on the State. That was the view of Mr. Gokhale and that was the view which was adumbrated so long in the Indian Legislative Assembly where this matter has been under discussion since 1912.

"So far as the local bodies are concerned, the elementary education cess is certainly one of the means of advancing elementary education. My hon. friend now turns round and says that the function of carrying on elementary education is a function to be performed by the local bodies. That is really inverting the whole process which has been so well recognized by the Elementary Education Act. Therefore, that is the question to which we have to address ourselves. My hon. friend, Mr. Krishna Rao, referred to the statement of the hon. the Minister made sometime last year which approximated to the ideal which has been so well recognized. Therefore, Sir, whatever, as pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. Narasimha Raju, may be his dealings with the Finance Department, and whatever the amount of difficulties he has to meet with from the financial side of his work, so far as we are concerned, he is responsible to us for furthering this cause of elementary education, and it is certainly no answer to say that the Finance Department would not make the contribution that he desired. So, Sir, I think that this principle should be clearly recognized and that in any future policy in regard to elementary education this side of the question should be kept in view and the necessary funds found accordingly.

12 noon.

[Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu] [19th March 1923]

"Sir, in regard to the District Educational Councils, I have only one or two words to say. It seems to me that these bodies have not fulfilled the expectations which had been formed of them. They were intended mainly as the chief administrative bodies in regard to elementary education. They have been starved and their functions for framing schemes of expansion of elementary education have been practically curtailed by the policy referred to by my hon. friend, Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar, of laying down restrictions on them and of not finding necessary funds for their expansion.

"There were one or two other remarks made about which I shall say a word. It is the desire of my hon. friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar to earmark a portion of the excise revenue for elementary education. I must say I am not at all in agreement with him on this matter. I may perhaps inform this House that when I came to this Council, ten years ago, I brought forward a motion that a portion of the excise revenue should be handed over to the local bodies for elementary education. That position was hotly contended. I may perhaps say this: one of the temperance papers, the *Abkari* of London noticed my resolution and it had very strong objection to my motion that such an apportionment would only mean an encouragement of the drink traffic, with a view to derive revenue from it. In the same way, however much I desire to see elementary education expanded, I think that the question of earmarking funds from excise revenue would probably induce the local authorities rather to neglect the social aspect of the question and wink at the inflation of this revenue in order to find funds for elementary education, and if my hon. friend thinks that by so earmarking excise he would have more elementary education, I may perhaps tell him that he would also be improving the extent of liquor consumption.

"I have one word to say about the remark of my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataratnam Nayudu. I have great respect for his opinion, but I venture to cross swords with him on the question he has raised, namely, the utilization of the surplus funds of temples for the purpose of elementary education. That is a very vexed question and I may say it will be fully debated upon in the course of the discussion on the Bill which is coming on in a few days. At the same time, I feel very great hesitation to subscribe myself to that view, and I will take the opportunity when this matter comes up for discussion to make one or two remarks on that question.

"I have only one other word to say, and that is about the pay of the elementary teachers. Sir, my sympathies are entirely with these teachers who are now struggling on very inadequate pay. I think it was my hon. friend the Minister himself, who, the other day, when he was not sitting on the Treasury Bench, very strongly pleaded on their behalf. I am only speaking from memory. It may be that he took part in the debate or that he himself moved in that direction. But to insist that the local bodies should find two rupees from their already depleted sources of revenue before the Government makes up its mind to give another two rupees is only tantamount to refusing that amount altogether. For, if the local body is to find the two rupees, it must cut down its existing establishment. I therefore think that it is certainly not at all fair to these unfortunate men who have not received any increase in their salaries."

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"Mr. President, Sir, the name of the hon. the Minister will be remembered long for the great interest he has evinced in the matter of compulsory elementary education, and I trust, Sir, he will use his



19th March 1923]

[Mr. A. T. Palmer]

influence to give to this object a greater interest and a greater impetus by removing the rupee for rupee contribution rule. I am afraid, Sir, it is rather hard on local bodies to get that education cess. It is not because many people are not quite alive to the necessities of primary education. As the country develops, I am sure the local bodies will be able to get that money. But as things are, the Government has to be more liberal in the matter of contributing money towards elementary education, and unless it is done, the great desire that we have for introducing compulsory education will not be accelerated.

"Sir, I have listened with great interest to the eloquent address by my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataratnam Nayudu. There are two points which he brought out and which I wish to endorse. One of them is in regard to the qualifications of the primary teacher, the teacher that is in charge of the lowest classes. In Germany the best men are employed for teaching the young minds. But what we do in this country is that people who absolutely have had very little education are placed in charge of these young minds, and very often the teacher is not more anxious than the boy himself to learn anything. The teacher is anxious about his grants, but the boy is anxious about nothing; and it is no wonder that the education that he gives in the three R's evaporates very quickly. There was a committee appointed by some people in the West who came out to India to investigate into the condition of primary education and they have reported that boys and girls in India that go through primary schools very soon forget what they have learnt. The chief reason is, I suppose, that the majority of their people are ignorant and illiterate, and when they come back to their homes the little they have learnt is forgotten. The other reason is that the education that is imparted in these primary schools is not worth the name. Of course, it means money. It means also more supervision.

"Sir, I have tabled a resolution for a reduction of Rs. 100 in the total grant. So, I suppose I may be permitted to go into the question widely and say just a few words on high school education."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member cannot speak on high school education just now, but he can speak on primary education in all its aspects."

MR. A. T. PALMER:—"All right, Sir. I think, in order to improve primary education the Government should pay greater attention to the quality of teachers employed and they should come forth with greater aid."

MR. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Speaking on this motion, I beg to say a few words with regard to the District Educational Councils. The hon. the Minister said that the business of expanding elementary education was practically in the hands of the District Educational Councils and that therefore he was asking the Educational Councils to do it. I join with my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, in saying that they are hardly capable of fulfilling that expectation. The District Educational Councils as at present constituted, are to distribute grants to schools under private management, and only to schools that are already existing can they distribute these grants. They have no power to start new schools where there are no schools, unless it be that some private agency comes forward to start up a new school. I believe that, under the rules, the Educational Council cannot be expected to give grants to a school unless it is satisfied with the stability of the school, and unless it is satisfied that the school is run by a trained teacher. I think the

[Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu]

[19th March 1923]

rules lay down that unless an application for grant is made to the Educational Council before a particular date no grant should be made unless it be that it is started by a trained teacher in whose case exception may be made. In these circumstances, unless a private agency actually comes forward to take up the work of starting new schools or a private trained teacher sets up a new school, there is no chance of the Educational Council doing anything of that sort. Again, speaking from my own experience of the Educational Council at Chittoor, and of the educational agencies there, I find that the mission authorities have not been able to continue their schools though some of them were very good schools. They gave notice that they could not continue the schools because they had no funds. My efforts to induce the taluk boards and municipalities to take up these schools have been unavailing for two reasons. One is that the Educational Council could not help the taluk board with any grant, and the other is that the Government itself take a very long time before they aid a local board to start a new school. We were asked to frame new schemes as to how to expand elementary education and where to start new schools. But before figures could be gathered, the Director of Public Instruction wrote to us that there was no chance of any new school being started last year and that we need not therefore take any trouble. Fortunately, no such trouble seems to be given to us this year also, because I do not find in the budget any provision at all for starting new primary schools. That is the state of the educational activity there. I should like to press on the attention of the hon. Minister that some of the taluk boards and municipalities have been levying the cess; but, even adding that with the Government grant, they are unable to make both ends meet with regard to the schools that they are now running. It is hardly possible to expect any of them to start new schools. Unless, therefore, the Government come forward hereafter by liberal aid and grants both to see new private schools being started and also to see the local bodies starting new schools, there must be and will be a stand-still. So far as elementary education is concerned, there is no use, Sir, in saying that it is the primary duty of local bodies to start new schools and that it cannot be made a provincial charge. I may tell the hon. the Minister to impress on him with respect to his particular statement, that the local bodies should do everything in that direction, that they have gone to the maximum extent of their taxable powers and that they have so exhausted their resources that there is nothing left to them so far as this object is concerned. Unless the Government come forward with a liberal grant, there is absolutely no chance of any new school being started. With regard to private schools, I have already said that the Mission authorities are not able to run their schools any longer and no other private agency is able to take up the schools.

"Then, Sir, with regard to the working itself of the Educational Councils, the establishment provided for them has been anything but satisfactory, and repeated requests to make the prospect of clerks serving in the Council better did not meet with any favourable consideration at the hands of the Government.

"My hon. friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar put it that some more liberty may be given to the Educational Councils. Power may be given to them within the allotment to make changes and to transfer money from one head to another head, so that if Government could not provide under the head of establishment more money, at least the Educational Council might



19th March 1923]

[Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu]

have power to transfer "some amount from savings. I may draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that recently there was a resolution passed by the Chittoor Educational Council to raise the pay of the head clerk by Rs. 10 to be met by savings from another head, and this has been negatived, and the Council was told that it can meet it only from within the allotment for establishment which it was hardly possible to do in the circumstances.

12-15 p.m. "Then, Sir, from my own experience of these schools, I can say that they are badly suffering from want of proper accommodation. Most of them are housed in dark and ill-ventilated rooms which are quite unfit for schools, and yet we want education to be imparted to our boys. Unless school buildings are improved and better provision is made for school accommodation, there is absolutely no possibility of even the education that is now imparted in these schools being really productive of any desirable results. I therefore request the hon. the Minister to see if he cannot provide some more grants for school buildings and also if he cannot help the local bodies to take steps towards that end. I appeal to the Government to see that out of the 5 lakhs that are said to be the increased income from excise, a major portion, say, 3 lakhs, is set apart to help local bodies for the purpose of providing better accommodation to schools.

"With regard to the objection raised by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, namely, that he would object to any portion of the excise revenue being given to local bodies for the purpose of improving education, I may invite the attention of the House to the following recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee on which my hon. friend served. The Committee say :

We also recommend that until legislation is passed empowering local bodies to levy a surcharge on excise revenue at a rate not exceeding one anna in the rupee, the Government should make over, to such local boards and municipalities as may need such help, a sum not exceeding one anna in the rupee of abkari revenue raised in their respective jurisdictions. We would however add the rider that in areas where the surcharge is levied or the grant of a share of the excise revenue is made, the local bodies concerned should take steps, in the interests of temperance, to provide suitable and sanitary accommodation for liquor shops.

This was in 1920. So this year when we have a better excise revenue, I do not see any objection to a portion of excise revenue being utilised for education. I appeal to the hon. Minister to set apart a portion of the excise revenue for granting aids to local bodies for the expansion of primary education."

Mr. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTIYAR :—"Sir, on the speech of the hon. the Finance Member relating to the Budget, an interesting discussion was raised as to the relationship between the Provincial Government and the local bodies with regard to the national services. I should think, Sir, that this question of primary education is one of such interesting points with regard to which the exact responsibility of the Provincial Government and the local bodies should be settled finally. At the outset, I may unhesitatingly say, Sir, that I am strongly convinced that this task of spreading primary education is one of those which must primarily, if not solely, devolve upon the Provincial Government and form an important charge on the national revenues of the country. When I consider the position of elementary school teachers in Government schools, in privately managed schools, and in schools managed by local bodies, I am especially led to think that the task of spreading elementary education should primarily rest on the Provincial

[Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiyar] [19th March 1923]

Government. Sir, it appears that there is very often great disparity in the status and pay of the elementary school teachers in the institutions managed by these three agencies. The Government no doubt have come to the rescue of local bodies in having undertaken the task of spreading elementary education. During the year 1922-23, the Government have offered a grant of 5.30 lakhs to local bodies for paying an allowance at the rate of Rs. 2 to teachers employed in primary schools under their management. But, Sir, as may be seen from the revised estimate, the whole of this amount has not been utilized by the local bodies, and only a sum of Rs. 4.46 lakhs has been spent for that purpose. Perhaps as a result of the experience gained in distributing the grants to local bodies during the current year, the Government have reduced the amount to four lakhs during the ensuing year, namely, 1923-24. To my mind, the proper solution for this seems to be to provincialize the service of the elementary school teachers. Unless this is done, I think it will be difficult to remove the disparity that now exists in the pay drawn by elementary school teachers in the various schools managed by the various institutions. Sir, it has been brought to the notice of this House very often by hon. Members and also by the hon. the Minister for Education, when he was not a Minister, that this grievance was a real one and one which ought to be attended to by this House. Unfortunately for us, and unfortunately for the country, I must say, the financial position for the last three years has been such that this House could not give that amount of aid which the elementary school teachers are by sheer justice entitled to. Sir, it is a truism to say—and I think, like all truisms, the truth of this is very seldom fully realized—that it is very essential that the efficiency of the elementary school teachers must be maintained if national efficiency is not to be impaired. Not merely from the position of the elementary school teacher himself, but also purely from the point of view of national efficiency, from a selfish motive that the children of the country must get that amount of culture and training which will fit them to be proper citizens of the country, it is essential that the class of elementary school teachers must be a well-paid and contented class, because if the children in their tender age are to acquire a cheerful outlook upon life, it is not possible for the half-starved school-master to infuse that outlook to the children under his charge. Therefore, Sir, I hope that the hon. the Minister for Education, who I must say has done very great service in inducing the local bodies to take this question of free and compulsory primary education into their hands, will also give the teachers some little aid, now that the finances of our province are, I think, steadily improving; and I also hope that he will see his way to redress at an early date the long-standing grievance of which he himself was conscious before he became a Minister. I think the local bodies ought to be utilized as one of the primary agencies for spreading elementary education, and if at all they can be expected to attend to this satisfactorily, the entire burden and the responsibility for the maintenance of these schools must form a charge upon the national exchequer of the Province."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"Sir, the discussion that we have had on this motion has brought out most prominently one or two points on which I beg to say a few words. Sir, this Council whose term of office is rapidly coming to a close, having been the first of its kind after the Reform Act, has, I think, certain responsibilities of which it should be aware and of whose due discharge it should be reminded of on the present



19th March 1923] [Mr. L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar]

occasion. Sir, we on this side of this House have always been anxious to influence the party in power on certain questions of principle and policy in which it has been our misfortune to differ from them. We are free to recognize that the efforts that we have made in this direction have not met with any success. But, Sir, on this question of the fundamental basis on which primary education should rest, every one in this House must be agreed. I venture to submit, Sir, that it is time that this House accepted that view clearly, definitely and indubitably that the responsibility for education, I will say, and certainly for primary education, rests on the Government as a whole and not on any particular department of it. I would even go further and say that it is the responsibility of the Government of India; but we are not now concerned with that question. As between the Madras Government and the local bodies, my submission is that the responsibility is entirely that of the Provincial Government and not merely of the local bodies. As two hon. Members have already pointed out in words of eloquence, these local bodies are merely channels through which the activities of the Provincial Government are being directed for the purpose of achieving the object which it is their first responsibility to attend to. Sir, in any difficulty that we might experience in finding the funds for the purpose of carrying out this duty that lies on the Provincial Government, let not the House shut the issue and be oblivious of the responsibility that lies upon it of recognizing that the responsibility for primary education rests on the Provincial Government and not on the local bodies. Sir, all along it has been my view that, given education and co-operation, given the spread of them to the extent, they are capable of, there is no power on earth which would stand between India and the achievement of her own among the nations of the world. If there is one thing upon which this House and those who have any influence in shaping the destinies of the nation should keep their minds steady, it is this: they should do all that lies in their power to advance education in the country. Let us not yield to the temptation of making bad law to meet hard cases, let not the hon. the Minister for Education try to shove the responsibility upon the local bodies, because he finds it difficult to get funds.

“There is one other observation that I would like to make for the consideration of the Cabinet as a whole, inclusive of the hon. the Finance Member. It is perfectly clear that even with an increase in our finances, there will be difficulties in meeting the expenditure involved in the various departments under the administration of the Government. It must necessarily be the case that some departments will have to be crippled in their activities and some others will have to be starved. But let all the members of the Cabinet agree that whatever may be the responsibilities that they are called upon to discharge with regard to the portfolios in their charge, the one department to which the shears should not be applied and to which the finances should be contributed as liberally as possible is education (hear, hear). I have no doubt that if only they have this in view, they will be doing what higher wisdom, the best interests of the country and the best principles of justice all alike dictate and they will find in the long run that any other policy could only be characterized as a penny wise and pound foolish policy.”

Rev. W. Meston :—“Sir, I have just one point that I wish to refer to in connexion with the discussion which has been going on for some time in regard to elementary schools.

12-30 p.m.

[Rev. W. Meston]

[19th March 1923]

“First of all, I am glad that so many have remarked upon what we owe to and what has been done by the hon. the Minister for Education in respect of elementary education, during the short time of his office. The part that he has played and the emphasis that he has laid upon it certainly give promise of a greater development in the days to come and in a very much shorter time than one would have thought possible five years ago. About that time, I remember the Secretary of State confessing that the work that had been done on behalf of elementary education was something which left the Government far from satisfied. We have witnessed an immense advance in the work that has been done and also in the controlling agency; and not only that, but a great advance in the relaxation of the rigidity which has characterized the way in which this part of education has been controlled and directed in the past. But, Sir, what has been so striking to me during this debate—and it is one that has struck me as a great advance upon the conduct of the debate of last year in this respect—is that there has been a recognition from all parts of the House of the part the State has to play in this all-important matter of elementary education, placing the responsibility upon the State and regarding the various agencies that are at work only as agencies by means of which that power is to be carried out. Now, Sir, there are those of us who are interested in aided education and there are others who are interested in local bodies, while there are others connected with the official part of it. Last year, what struck me most was that we were rather inclined to put one in opposition to the other in pleading for special cases and forgetting the unity. To-day I think we have risen above that. There has been such a recognition of the part that the State has to play, of the national responsibility that is laid upon us in regard to that great national asset of elementary education, that there has been a feeling that it is by means of a generous treatment by the Government of all the agencies that are at work that this problem can be solved and only by that means. I may say with regard to the remark of Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chettiar that I do not agree with him that the matter of teachers so poorly paid in elementary schools is to be set right by provincialization. That is not the way in which we can look forward for a long time to come to any solution of this great and perplexing problem. It must be by the Government, in elementary as in other parts of education, making it plain that it welcomes and encourages every partner, local or private, into this great unity of national education. Then there can be no doubt that every one will put forward every effort that he can in order that the whole may be advanced. It strikes me to-day that this point of view of unity of the whole is going more and more to be pressed upon the Government, and the more that that is pressed upon the Government and the more that a generous regard for the whole is one of the demands of such a Council as this, the more chance have we of seeing the advance in the country as a whole. That will never take place until our education work of the elementary grade is tackled as one great stage in which the various agencies which at present may not see eye-to-eye yet by means of a unification of the whole may be so made to co-operate that the advance will be striking in the extreme.”

MR. S. SOMASUNDARAM PILLAI :—“Sir, if there is one item of money that is well-spent, it is that spent on primary education. Primary education is as much necessary as food is necessary to life. Perhaps university and higher education may be a luxury. Everybody's work is no-body's work, and when



19th March 1923] [Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai]

we look to our Education Minister, he looks to the Finance Member, who is bewildered when he looks into the budget and sees that he has to put into it money for so many departments. We must feel the necessity of imparting primary education to our country, and unless and until we impart this education, our country will never come forward and will always be in the dark. The chief defect in our country is that the people do not feel the want of education. The majority of them are in darkness; they have been accustomed to darkness for a long time and whenever any man takes light to them, they begin to close their eyes. That is our chief defect. Those that are enlightened and feel the necessity for education must bring light to these people and make them feel the necessity for primary education.

"As regards teachers, it is a fact that those who are little educated and who have no other means of livelihood apply to the managers of schools to appoint them as teachers. I am myself a manager of some schools. I very often receive applications for teachers' posts, and when I make inquiries regarding the educational attainments of the applicants, I find that they have studied only up to the fourth standard. How can such candidates expect to be appointed as teachers for the second and third standards? The teacher should be a well-educated and well-trained man and unless we are prepared to pay him well, it is not possible to get such teachers.

"As regards District Educational Councils, I am a member of the Madras District Educational Council and as such I know the difficulties that lie in the way of spreading primary education by opening more schools. I am also a manager of some societies which impart education free. I open here and there some schools, but generally we have to wait for some six months before we can ask for recognition from the Council. As for funds, I have to depend upon the public and whenever I go and knock at the door of respectable people, very often I am turned out; so much so, before the period of six months referred to expires, there will be no funds on hand. It is very difficult for individual societies, unless they have funds, to open new schools and go to the educational council for support. The district educational councils are not at liberty to open schools of their own accord, but if anybody opens a school and applies to them, they are willing to help. After all there is no use of blaming this and that body. There are so many things in the world and if a man feels that somehow or other some particular thing should be done, he will certainly do it by some means; and if he feels that there is necessity for the spread of elementary education, somehow or other he will manage to get funds for the purpose. So long as we really do not feel the necessity for imparting education, we shall always have some excuse or other to offer by saying that funds are not available, etc. We must find some funds by curtailing expenditure in other departments. We must see that we provide the hon. the Minister for Education with ample funds so that he may be able to take on hand the work connected with the spread of free and compulsory elementary education. We are now throwing out some inducements to the boys by offering them one meal a day. Even then they are unwilling to attend school. It is very difficult to induce parents to send their boys to school and if only we can make them understand the value of education, there will not be much difficulty on that score. For some time we shall have to struggle and shall have to be offering some inducement or other.

[Mr. S. Somasundaram Pillai] [19th March 1923]

“With these few words I support the previous speakers.”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—“Mr. President, while it is an undoubted fact that the Government, the hon. Members of this Council and also the educated community as a whole recognize primary education as a national duty, I beg to offer one or two remarks with a view to induce the people also to look upon the education of their children as a paramount duty cast upon them. I do not find, Sir, in the mufassal that same thirst for knowledge that we wish to see. When we look into the statistics of most of these elementary schools, we find that to some considerable number there are boys and girls in the first and second classes, but when we go up higher to the 3rd, 4th and 5th standards, we find the number going down and down increasingly. The result is that in very many village schools there are only first and second standards. This is a point which I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister so that he may, through the district educational officers under him, try to see that higher standards in elementary education are appreciated by the people at large. It is a well-known fact that in the mufassal people are not so desirous of having education. They do go to school because an aided school teacher comes and requests them, or because the missionary bodies, in their desire to propagate education, come and request them to study. But there is not that innate desire in them for education. Some steps should be taken by the Government through their educational officers and the local bodies which would really create a desire in them for education and that I think is a very good point which should be adopted as early as possible. These little boys are sent more after domestic purposes and toils than to schools. They care more for the collection of the cow-dung, to go after their cattle and to attend to the cultivation business, and the people say: ‘Why do we want education? We have got all these things to look after and therefore we do not want it.’ Therefore the real point is to devise some means whereby to create a real thirst for education.

“Then again, Sir, on account of this comparative apathy on the part of the people, we have many bogus schools. There are schools found in registers, but if we go and make a surprise visit, or inspection, we shall find no boys at all there. After the transfer of the supervision from the purely inspecting agency to the non-official agency, it is within the experience of several taluk board presidents when they go and make a surprise visit, that the schools do not exist at all or that the same boys under different names are brought up for inspection year after year for the sake of obtaining grants.

“This is a defect which is being removed by the district educational agency. I do not subscribe to the opinion that the district educational council is a mere post office. It has been my experience, as a member of the district educational council, after the council has been started that the educational councils take a real interest, they go to the villages and discover these frauds and bring them to the notice of the authorities at the time when the grants are being distributed or applied for. If the educational councils have served any purpose at all they have discovered these frauds. Several schools which were really bogus schools have been abolished and schools which were necessary for certain places have been established. I therefore think that these educational councils have been doing some real work.”

12-45 p.m.



19th March 1923]

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"What is the number of the members of these councils who are able to go about and find out these frauds?"

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"In my own district there are not less than twelve members who are doing this work."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"There are twelve members for the whole district."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"The educational council consists of several officials and non-officials and you cannot expect all the non-officials to do this work."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"What is the total number of the members of the council?"

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU:—"The number is 24. Therefore, with my short experience I submit, Sir, that the Council has been doing some good work; at least it has been saving our good money instead of being wasted upon bogus schools. Therefore the real point is to create a thirst in the people for education. The Government are not wanting in their eagerness to propagate education nor are we wanting, but the people have not taken it eagerly. We should devise some means whereby we can create a thirst in the mufassal. Then we would have solved this problem. We can very easily have free education or even compulsory education. That I think is very essential and I hope that the Government will kindly devise some means to create a thirst for primary education in the mufassal."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I am grateful to hon. Members for emphasising the necessity for the expansion of elementary education. Various Members have stated their opinions and I do not differ very much in the spirit in which the remarks were offered. As I said, from the beginning of my public life it has been one of my dreams of introducing free and compulsory education in this Presidency. I quoted repeatedly the remarks of the Emperor of Japan that there should not be any village without having a school or any village with an illiterate person. Such was the ideal that was placed before the country by the Emperor of Japan and I have always insisted in my speeches that that ideal should be realized in this country and in my book on Elementary Education I have emphasized this aspect of education. I do consider that this is a national problem and that it is the duty of the Government and the people to realize this ideal. When I stated that this was primarily the first charge on the local rates I was only emphasizing the primary duty and responsibility of the local boards and not that the local boards should bear the entire or sole burden of carrying on elementary education."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"If I remember right it was said that the first charge on the local bodies was to raise local rates."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"If my hon. friend has not followed me it is not my fault. What I said was that the expansion of primary education should be the first charge on the local rates because the various local acts themselves prescribe that it is one of the duties of the municipalities and local boards, and as I said it is the duty of the Government to assist the expansion of elementary education. Sir, in this matter the policy of the Government is most unmistakable. Last year the

[Mr. A. P. Patro]

[19th March 1923]

Government placed in the budget a larger sum than in the previous years for the purpose of the expansion of elementary education. Hon. Members have admitted that this year for the progress of elementary education a still larger sum has been allotted in the budget. The policy of the Government is therefore clear that they should carry on the elementary education on progressive lines so that gradually the ideal may be reached.

"But there is one obstacle which I must place before the House for the consideration of those who have criticized the policy of the Government. There is the Elementary Education Act and I have to carry out its provisions. I must administer the Act and I cannot set aside the provisions of the Act and go on starting a new policy. The Act was passed two years ago and it came into force within these two years. The provisions have to be worked and experience has to be gained. The rules were framed only very recently in consultation with responsible persons of the Local bodies and the rules, which have been framed, are more liberal than the provisions of the Act itself."

Diwan Bahadur L. A. GOVINDARAGHAVA AYYAR:—"Is there anything in the Madras Elementary Education Act which prohibits the Government from making grants to the local bodies for the spread of elementary education?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I may point out that section 32 of the Elementary Education Act relates to the elementary education fund. There are various constituents for this fund and one of such is the contribution to local bodies. The amount of contribution is also limited under sections 36 and 37. They impose an obligation of a rupee contribution for a rupee."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya:—"May I inform the hon. the Minister that it is not less than a rupee? So the Government are at liberty to contribute more."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"A rupee for a rupee contribution is an obligation; not less than a rupee is only optional. Hon. Members will understand that the provisions of the Act have to be administered and funds obtained from the Finance Department in concurrence with the provisions which nobody is at liberty to override. My hon. friend, Mr. Narasimharaju, suggested very humorously that it is the duty of the Minister to get the necessary funds. I may point out to him that the provisions of the Act prescribe only a certain amount of obligation."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"A word of personal explanation, Sir. I am one of those who voted against the passing of the Act."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"This is a defect in the Act and I hope he will help the Minister in trying to get rid of such defects."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I ask the hon. the Minister when he would bring the amending Bill?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO:—"I should have been very glad to bring it but for the short term which this Council is going to have. Information has been collected from various sources in consultation with responsible persons who are competent to advise, and the Bill would have been introduced in the Council but for the unfortunate or fortunate cutting of the term of this Council. Again, I may invite the attention of the hon. Members to



19th March 1923]

[Mr. A. P. Patro]

the Financial Relations Committee's report. The hon. Mr. Ramachandra Rao referred to the fact that that Committee had improved the provisions of the Elementary Education Act. I am very sorry that they have not improved upon them."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—"I never said 'seriously improved'. I said that we must consider the expansion of elementary education as a national or semi-national duty."

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"So that there may not be a mistake as to what the Elementary Education Act says, I shall read the portion of that Act which is relevant for our purpose here. Section 37 of the Act imposes an obligation on the Government to contribute to the fund a sum not less than the proceeds of the education tax and that is to be in addition to and not in lieu of a recurring grant to the local rate in the year preceding the introduction of the Act. This recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee does not take away what is already provided in section 37, namely, rupee for rupee grant. Therefore to the elementary education fund Government is obliged to contribute only under certain conditions. I have to carry out the provisions of the Act and therefore I am handicapped in its working, because I cannot get more funds to carry out the policy as much as I would wish. As suggested by the hon. Members, I undertook the task of amending this Act, so that all the principles that we are now advocating might be introduced. With this preliminary explanation, I would answer the remarks of my hon. friend, Mr. Krishna Rao to the effect that some provision which was originally found under this head has been omitted. We have to carry out the work of expanding the elementary education through private and aided institutions and also through local bodies, and not by Government taking the management themselves. About 200 schools which were in the hands of Government and whose expenses were heavy were all handed over to private bodies for the purpose of management, the Government subsidising them with a full grant of all the working expenses. As we are working for the expansion of elementary education we have given also subsidies to local bodies for the establishment of new schools where there are no schools. Again, a certain sum has also been put in the labour budget in order that the work in connexion with the depressed classes might be carried out. Therefore, the whole amount that was originally standing under this head has now been distributed under various heads for the expansion of elementary education. Neither any omission nor deduction has been made in the original grant. In this connexion I must gratefully acknowledge the remarks of my hon. friend, Diwan Bahadur Venkataratnam Nayudu. When I toured about the districts and discussed the question of elementary teachers, as well as of managers of elementary schools, I was faced with this difficulty, namely, what is to be the nature of education that has to be given. Are we to adopt the old system of giving three R's education, or what is the nature of education that would appeal to the people and would draw more pupils to schools and how are we to proceed with this work? I discussed this problem with many responsible persons, and in the instructions I have issued to the various educational officers and managers of institutions, I have clearly pointed out that in the matter of curriculum and course of studies full freedom is to be given to those institutions, so that the course of studies may be in consonance with social, moral and economic well-being of the

[Mr. A. P. Patro]

[19th March 1923]

people. In the prescription of text-books also full freedom is given to these bodies so that they may adopt a system of education which would be useful and practicable to the boys. Therefore, under these circumstances, I may say that the system of red-tapism has been taken away and a more elastic system has been introduced, and a large sum of grant has been given to these bodies for the purpose of introducing such a system of education as would be more useful in the local area.

“As for the question of training teachers, I entirely agree that in the past both the teachers and the taught, in some cases, appeared for the same examination, and I have felt that one of the greatest desiderata of elementary education is that we should not have untrained teachers. Therefore the system of having untrained lower teachers has completely been abolished. This difficulty was felt by the inspecting officers, and they complained that the untrained teachers knew very little, and they read only up to the second or third standard. When sessional schools were started, there was paucity of trained teachers, and the old teachers were somehow or other utilized for the purpose for which trained teachers would be required. With regard to the salaries of elementary teachers, to which many hon. Members referred to, I may say that their salaries have of late been very much enhanced. I have always been advocating the cause of the poorly paid schoolmasters, and I do not withdraw a word of what I have said before, and I do say that the teachers should receive all the consideration that they deserve. Thus you will find from a press communiqué which was issued in February 1922 after a considerable amount of discussion in the Finance Committee, I am quoting only to show that the condition of teachers was very well considered by the Government, and after a full discussion a scheme of salaries was adopted which is twice the amount they were receiving before. With your permission, Sir, I shall read out a paragraph from that communiqué :

Government have received repeated representations that rates of teaching grant paid by them to teachers of elementary schools are inadequate and should be enhanced. Government recognize that simultaneously with the demands to improve the condition of teachers under local bodies, the emoluments of those in aided schools should also receive consideration. But this question had to be kept in abeyance for a time chiefly for want of funds, and though the financial position was much worse than was anticipated at the commencement of the year, Government feel that a serious discontent has to be avoided and that grants to aided teachers should be revised without further delay. So the Government are pleased to sanction an additional grant of Rs. 2 lakhs for the current year for the purpose of enhancing the teaching grants of the year as shown below.

The lower elementary teachers were paid Rs. 48 because that class of teachers is intended to be discouraged. The higher elementary teachers receiving Rs. 48 get Rs. 72. The untrained secondary teachers who were getting Rs. 48 now get Rs. 96. In the case of the trained teachers they were getting Rs. 76, 92, and 168, whereas they are now getting Rs. 84, 96, and 180, respectively.

“This certainly was fixed in consultation with the managers of institutions and presidents of district boards. Therefore the condition of elementary teachers and their salaries were taken into consideration and great improvements have been effected. I have not myself been satisfied with that. All that could be done has been done. It is capable of improvement, but according to financial conditions we have been able to place before the country satisfactory means of improving the conditions of secondary school teachers. Sir, there is one other point I have not referred to, viz., the district educational



19th March 1923]

[Mr. A. P. Patro]

councils. It has become the fashion of some people to be dissatisfied with them whether they recognize or do not recognize the responsibilities of these bodies. I am glad that there is at least one president, I mean Mr. Narasimhacharlu. . . .”

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—“ I am not a president of the District Educational Council. I am only a member. ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—“ At least there is one member here who gives his experience. They have begun recently and within the short time and experience they have been able to reorganize and overhaul the existing state of things and introduce new life. It is really a very great advance. Again, Sir, the district educational councils have got full opportunities of inviting the local bodies and private individuals to give to them schemes for expansion of elementary education. Under section 24 of this Act there is an obligation on the part of these bodies to extend elementary education by inviting schemes from the local bodies as well as private individuals. They have got to examine these institutions wherever it is necessary, and they can rectify any shortcomings that are in existence and bring into existence new schools in places where there are no schools. So it is a remarkable responsibility which the councils should realize and, if they are not able to realize now, they will be able to realize it in course of time. Nothing would be revolutionized in a day. Having had the reform scheme a few years back, if we expect abundant results at so early a date, we shall be impatient idealists. Advance could be secured only by working on practical lines. I have personally seen the work in four or five councils and I must congratulate their members and presidents for the excellent work that they have been doing in the matter of elementary education, and I am sure that other institutions which are not up to the mark, if they only realize their duties unto themselves and to the nation at large, if they are sincere and patriotic more and more, they will have the satisfaction of satisfying the needs of the local area and reaching the ideal the country expects of them. I am not disappointed nor is there any room for criticism. But I join with the hon. Members when I say that greater efforts and greater energy is needed on the part of the people in order to realize that there are difficulties in the expansion of elementary education, and it is we who should shoulder them. Mr. Narasimhacharlu has referred to the real difficulties. For instance, in the matter of pressing for free, elementary and compulsory education, if only hon. Members will discuss with the ratepayers as well as with the members of a particular municipality or local board area, we know what practical difficulties these people put forward. We have to convince and persuade them in order to accept the system of free and compulsory education. The people must be convinced that the system is necessary for them; they must be convinced that they will be useful to them and in this way practical work must be carried on. It cannot be done simply because the Act is passed. It must be worked carefully and systematically with sincerity and patriotism. If honest work is done the result will not be disappointing. If every member were to shoulder these responsibilities they will come to the next session with greater hopes and patriotism about the expansion of elementary education in this province.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

[19th March 1923]

The demand that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding 136.20 lakhs for Education (Non-European) was put and carried ; the grant was made.

## DEMAND XVIII—MEDICAL.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I beg to move Demand XVIII—Medical for a grant not exceeding 48.64 lakhs."

## MOTION No. 158.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I beg to move—

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,22,180 for District Medical and Sanitary Officers by Rs. 1,000*

My intention, Sir, in tabling this motion is chiefly with a view to get information about this all-important medical department. We want to know, Sir, whether so far as this department is concerned, the number of acting appointments that has been made till now is to be increased or decreased. Secondly, so far as the 30 appointments recently made by the Secretary of State are concerned, how many of them are to be allotted to this Presidency ? —if it is no State secret to mention it the appointment was made either with the consent of the Government or the hon. Minister in charge. Secondly, Sir, we have to take into consideration whether the Government in making appointments have done anything substantial with a view to the provincial officers coming to the top. In other departments we have been told that attempts have been made, and somewhat successfully, to get the provincial services people better positions. This is a department about which the public do not know much. Therefore, it is very difficult to get accurate information. Therefore, if there is any mistake in what I say, I hope the hon. Member will correct me and give the correct information. The fact that mistakes are made is due to the reason that information is not forthcoming in this department as in other departments. I want to know as to what has been done as to the exact number of provincial people who are to get the district medical officer's position. It has been said that a few years ago when the number of assistant surgeons was 20 they were having five district medical officers from among them. The number of the assistant surgeons has now come to 200, but the number of those who can become District Medical and Sanitary Officers is only six. I never complain of the other departments getting more appointments. We want to know what is to be the fate of the Assistant Surgeons or the Civil Surgeons who have no further prospects. We know, Sir, that during the war the Assistant Surgeons have been doing excellent work and many of them have been placed in charge of the district. The question now is whether any one has been found wanting in work ? If it is not so, what is to be their fate ? After being in charge of a district for a period of five or six years are they to be told that they must go, that there will be people to be recruited or returning from war who will take their places and that they ought to be satisfied with a subordinate position ? There is a rumour that a long correspondence has been going on between this Government and the India Government and probably the Secretary of State also. It is better that nothing is kept confidential or secret till the correspondence comes to an end. We in this Council are in an unfortunate position. The Council is not taken into confidence nor is the public taken into confidence when correspondence is going on in respect of any important facts.



19th March 1923] [Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar]

When the matter is under discussion or when the correspondence is going on, we are told that correspondence is going on and therefore it is too early to do anything. If the question is raised at the end we are told that the decision has been arrived at after mature consideration and therefore it is too late. At the beginning it is too early and at the end it is too late and we are given no share in the discussion. It is practically the case in all cases where we want information as to the correspondence that is going on between this Government and any other Government. I appeal to the head of this department not to say, 'Please wait and see after the matter is decided'; because it is absolutely useless to say anything after the file is disposed of and the reply will be, 'After mature consideration the matter has been duly decided.' Now it is in this view that I say that though this matter is being considered, it is very important for the officers concerned to have the information. I also want to raise the question of nationality. It appears that a large number of European officers want that they and their families should be attended to by Europeans. It is a matter of sentiment. European schools ought to have European Inspectors. Let them have European Inspectors and European doctors. I am not at all standing in the way of these European ladies and gentlemen having European doctors to attend on them. It is a legitimate aspiration. But what I say is, on the ground that there may be a few European officers and their families in a few headquarters of some districts, it should not be said that the officer in charge of that district or the headquarters hospital should necessarily be an European officer. Let there be few European officers in important centres who may be travelling about the various European residences in various places. If, on the one hand, there is a sentiment and inclination that there must be European officers there must be a widespread feeling also among the Indians on the other that there should be Indians having higher knowledge, so far as medical knowledge is concerned, so that they might also be treated by the people of their own nationality. Therefore it is a legitimate aspiration and sentiment, Sir, which should be respected. One other point that I should like to appeal to the hon. the Minister for Education is to see if ladies, Indian ladies, cannot be made Indian Medical and Sanitary Officers; because we know, Sir, the great difficulty we feel so far as maternity and other things are concerned that the Indian women refuse to have anything to do with European officers. Therefore it is necessary that district medical officers should be ladies in some cases at least. If necessary, they may be sent to England and other countries for the necessary training and experience so that they may be put in charge of district hospitals. It is, Sir, with a view to have some information on these points that I tabled this motion. I hope the hon. the Minister in charge of this department will be free in taking us into his confidence and in telling us how far the correspondence, if any, has gone on and what he and his department are going to do in the matter."

The hon. the RAJA of PANAGAL :—"Mr. President, Sir, the hon. mover urges the need for the posting of more provincial men as District Medical and Sanitary Officers. At present, Sir, there are 14 Indian Medical Service Officers and 19 provincial officers holding the posts of District Medical and Sanitary Officers. Of these 19 non-Indian Medical Service Officers, two are military assistant surgeons and the rest are all provincial officers. The

[The Raja of Panagal]

[19th March 1923]

hon. Member has to remember that under rule 12 of Devolution rules, this Government have to appoint such number of Indian Medical Service Officers as the Secretary of State may fix. As a matter of fact, Sir, this subject has been under correspondence between this Government and the Secretary of State and he has not yet fixed any number. That is why at present there are 19 non-Indian Medical Service Officers holding the posts of District Medical and Sanitary Officers. The hon. Member has further asked whether the Minister in charge of the Department was consulted when the 30 officers were recently appointed by the Secretary of State. My reply is that I was not consulted."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"May I know, Sir, whether the hon. the Minister in charge has protested?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, it is not known as to how many of these 30 officers are to be allotted to this province. Probably I do not think that any of them will at all events be allotted at present for this province, because before these Indian Medical Service officers are appointed to several posts, they will have to put in some service as military officers, and as they are at liberty to retire after five years of service, I do not expect that they would be posted to civil posts. The hon. Member has further asked me whether there is any chance of a lady assistant surgeon being posted as district medical and sanitary officer. At present we have not sufficient number of women medical officers in the province to do duty in hospitals, and it is premature to expect any lady assistant surgeon to be posted to the district charge.

"The hon. mover has taken me to task for not taking the Council into my confidence in the matter of correspondence which is now going on."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"I did not take him to task for not having already taken us into his confidence. What I said was that he might take us into confidence hereafter and let us know if any correspondence was going on and what that correspondence was."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I am very glad that the hon. Member has not taken me to task. My own opinion is that these are all more or less administrative matters, and they have to be going on promptly. It will sometimes be rather inconvenient to consult hon. Members of this House in all details of administration. As for the general policy, we have the Legislative Council, and they will surely tell us what they want. Their views are certainly welcome. In any case, this particular matter is still under correspondence between this Government and the Secretary of State, and it is premature to make any statement about it at this stage."

Mr. A. T. PALMER:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am in favour of making the Medical Service more and more Indian, not because of any racial interest but because I believe in the western treatment of disease, and, as long as it is in the hands of the westerners, the Indian people will not be quite willing to use that medicine. I think it is a great sin to deny India of the great advantage accruing from western medicine. Sir, the Indian women especially do not wish to be treated by Europeans, and I think the Government should see that the tax-payers of India by whom the medical men are paid should be first consulted in this matter."



19th March 1923]

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Sir, I am very sorry that the hon. the Minister in charge of this Department has also followed the example of others, of keeping silent till the matter is disposed of. This is a matter of policy and therefore we appeal to the hon. Members of the Government not to say that it is too early now and too late later on. Whatever their recommendations may be, it is better, when they have got a democratic Council here and when there is an educated public outside, that their recommendations are placed before the Council and the public, as well as the correspondence so far between this Government and the Secretary of State. It may be that the recommendations made by the Members of the Cabinet are in consonance with the public opinion or not. In any case it is better that they should be before the public. I think these are matters of first rate importance to the public at large, and they should be discussed by the public before final decisions are arrived at. There is no use of placing the decisions before us after final decisions are arrived at. In the House of Commons, they can go into the question at any time and the Ministers in charge of the various departments generally respond to public opinion. Whether the Members of this Government are responsible or not, we have got the Government of India absolutely not responsible so far as this Council is concerned, and we have an absolutely irresponsible Secretary of State. There is no use of informing us after the matter has been disposed of, because it will be a settled fact at least for some years. I, therefore, appeal to all Members of the Cabinet—especially to the transferred portion of it—that so far as such matters are concerned, when any correspondence is going on between this Government and the Secretary of State, to take the public into their confidence and place the facts before them, so that the public will also be able to express their opinion before the matter is finally disposed of. I hope the matter will be considered very favourably and very sympathetically by all members of the Government. With these words, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 159.

RAO SAHIB U. RAMA RAO :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 35,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 5,000.*

Sir, there is no necessity to transfer medical officers from place to place. It has been brought to my notice that medical subordinate officers are being unnecessarily transferred from one corner to another—from Ganjam to Tinnevely, from the West Coast to the East Coast and so on. There is a rule that a medical officer should be in a particular place for not more than three years. I think that period should be extended to five years. This will result in less expenditure. There is no object in transferring an officer from one place to another. When a man remains in a particular place for some time, the people may begin to have confidence in him. Unless there is a complaint against a particular man, I think he should not be transferred too often. It may be suggested, Sir, that one particular station may be a very good place for private practice. In such a case, the officer may be asked to look after the hospital work as an honorary man. In that way the State also may save some amount and the number of honorary assistant surgeons may be increased.”

[19th March 1923]

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Mr. President, Sir, the sum of Rs. 35,000 which my hon. friend, Mr. Rama Rao, wants to reduce by Rs. 5,000 is intended to cover the travelling expenses of the District Medical and Sanitary Officers. They are touring officers, and, in fact, this item of expenditure has been gradually cut down.”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ Am I to understand, Sir, that this amount of Rs. 35,000 does not include the travelling allowance of the subordinate medical officers ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ This sum represents the travelling allowance of the District Medical and Sanitary Officers and their assistants. In 1921-22 the provision under this head was Rs. 47,900; in 1922-23, according to the revised estimate, it was Rs. 38,000 and this year it is cut down to Rs. 35,000. Further reduction does not seem to be reasonable. The District Medical and Sanitary Officers are expected to visit all the medical institutions in the district. Sir, the hon. mover has raised the question of frequent transfers of District Medical and Sanitary Officers from place to place. These are due to administrative exigencies.”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ I never referred to District Medical and Sanitary Officers. I spoke about subordinate medical officers.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Well, Sir, these transfers are necessary to meet administrative exigencies. Again, if a particular officer happens to be a good and an able officer, I cannot understand why only a particular locality should have the benefit of the services of such an officer; and if he is a bad officer, I cannot understand why only a particular locality should have the misfortune of having him. So, under these circumstances, these transfers cannot be considered to be an unmixed evil. As to the extension of the period of the District Medical and Sanitary Officers in a particular locality, I am afraid it is difficult to keep an officer in one place for more than three years, because a number of people will be going on leave and changes become necessary.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

At this stage the House adjourned for lunch and re-assembled at 2-30 p.m., with the hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT in the Chair.

#### MOTION No. 160.

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—“ I beg to move—

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,000 for one Radiologist, General Hospital, by Re. 1.*

2-30 p.m.

Sir, the duty of this Radiologist is to work in the X-Rays Department. He is paid Rs. 1,000 a month, and he is not a medical man. I think this is a very large amount. His duties are performed at the Government hospital at Vizagapatam by an Assistant Surgeon, in addition to his duties in the hospital as well as in the medical school, and he is given a small allowance; these duties in the city may be much more than in the mufassal. But a Civil Assistant Surgeon or a Sub-Assistant Surgeon may be appointed solely to do this work. I wish to know, in this connexion, how many Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been trained by this man in X-Rays. I think a Sub-Assistant Surgeon can be appointed to look after this work.”



19th March 1923]

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“Mr. President, Sir, last year, I had brought a similar motion in this House. This Radiologist is not a medical man, but only an electrician. He was brought to Madras on a short term of agreement for the purpose of training medical graduates and under-graduates for one or two years. After coming over here he was given a permanent berth. Just like my friend Mr. Appalanarasayya, I asked last year how many Assistant Surgeons were trained ever since he arrived here. I am yet waiting for the reply.

“Then Sir, the amount of pay that he is drawing is Rs. 1,000. Even a doctor on the Indian Medical Service cadre does not get that amount to start with. An ordinary electrician, with no medical training, to get such a large pay, is really something extraordinary. This work is managed in other parts of the world by doctors. This man is not a medical man. As he is, he would not be able to diagnose diseases. He simply takes the photo and hands it over to doctors for examination. Such being the case, this can be done by anybody. The best thing for the hon. the Minister is to give notice to this man and send him away. Meanwhile, let us send a medical man to undergo training either in England or Dehra Dun or wherever electricity is taught as a special subject. Further, I am told, I am speaking subject to correction, that if this gentleman does any private work for any private men, the private men are charged a certain amount of fee and out of that fee a certain proportion goes to the pockets of this man. This is very unfair. He is already paid, very high. In addition to that, he is allowed a certain proportion of the fees which he collects from private people. The whole of that amount ought to go to the Government coffers. With these few words, I press this motion.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“Mr. President, it has been observed that the work of the Radiologist can be conducted by any Assistant Surgeon. It is a matter for experts to pronounce any opinion upon. It has been found that the appointment of an expert officer as a Radiologist was a long-felt want. As a matter of fact, in Captain Bernard we have a very competent Radiologist, who has to his credit expert services of great value, and during the last one year he has done a good deal of work in the General Hospital. The Radiologist is in charge of an X-Ray institute where not only the most up-to-date development of Radiography but also all sorts of electrical treatment are indispensable. Questions have been asked as to whether the Radiologist has trained any of the Assistant Surgeons. He was appointed in 1920; he has already trained two men; and he is now training a third officer. The idea is that when these officers are trained, even the mufassal institutions will have the benefit of an X-Ray institute. In modern surgery, the services of a Radiologist are absolutely necessary, and I am sure my hon. friend Mr. Rama Rao, as a medical officer, will not deny that fact. This officer was entertained on a short term of contract; but in 1921 it was decided that he should be appointed permanently, and that is the reason he is now holding the permanent appointment on a pay of Rs. 1,000 to 1,500, and it is not possible to get the services of another man on the same pay. Therefore, I find it difficult to comply with the request of my friend, Mr. Appalanarasayya.”

MR. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—“Did he train only three officers? Why should he not train more?”

[19th March 1923]

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"He has trained two and he is to train one more."

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—"He is training only one a year."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"That is due to the fact that people are not coming forward to undergo training in Radiology."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Sir, I feel thankful for the information placed before us by two of the medical members of our Council. We have been told by the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government that the Radiologist was first appointed on a short-term contract and that subsequently he was made permanent. I wish to know the circumstances under which it was originally thought that a temporary appointment on a short-term period was enough. I wish to know if it was not thought that after he had trained some Assistant Surgeons locally, it would be possible to have the further work carried on by local Assistant Surgeons. I wish to know again if that was the original understanding, why the system was changed, why his office was made permanent and why the Assistant Surgeons have not been found competent to continue the work. If the original object with which he was appointed was to give training to the existing local officers, and if the object also was that officers trained locally would be in a position to carry on that work, why has that principle been changed and why has he been made permanent? I think it is useful to have more detailed information on these points. It was also pointed out that it was not possible to have another officer on the same pay. I should like to know whether any special steps were taken to secure the services of such officers by advertisement or other known processes, and whether all these attempts have failed and it was found necessary to make him permanent. I think before we can accept this demand, it is better we have more detailed information on these points."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—"Sir, this gentleman, the Radiologist, gets for every private case 96 per cent of the fee that he charges. I want to ask the hon. the Minister in charge whether if it is a proper proportion, seeing that he is using the Government installation kept at a very great expense and that he is also drawing a high salary. He is a Government servant and he is expected to devote his whole time and knowledge for the benefit of the public, for whose interest the installation was established. I should think that 4 per cent is a very poor return to the Government. I doubt whether any remuneration beyond his pay of Rs. 1,000 is admissible to him. Even if there should be any remuneration, it should be only nominal and not 96 per cent as it is reported to be."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Sir, the Radiologist has been doing excellent work during these two years, and his work in the General Hospital has shown that the services of a permanent man are necessary. It has been suggested that this Radiologist is accepting fees from private patients. For the matter of that, every Professor of the Medical College and every officer in charge of a medical institution is allowed to have private practice. This 4 per cent referred to by my hon. friend, Dr. Rama Rao, is charged for his use of the implements which belong to Government. As to the question of there being any other Radiologist available here, it is known that in India, there is not much of radiology in evidence. We have no Indians available, and if we advertise for one from England the chances



19th March 1923]

[The Raja of Panagal]

are that he would demand more than Rs. 1,000 a month. Under these circumstances, it has been found necessary to continue the appointment of Captain Bernard."

Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao (*rising to speak*).

2-45 p.m. The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member has already spoken."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"Yes; but I have the right of reply as having moved the motion."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member only supported the motion moved by Mr. Appalanarasayya Nayudu who has now got the right of reply."

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—"I wish only to say, Sir, that the fees so charged should be credited to the Government since he is a Government servant and the work is done in the hospital."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I have already explained to the Council how the fees are adjusted between the Radiologist and the Government. I have no objection to have the question examined by the Retrenchment Committee when the Committee consider the questions relating to medical institutions."

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—"I beg leave to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

#### MOTION No. 161.

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—"Sir, the motion which stands in my name reads—

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,280 for the training of a Military Assistant Surgeon in X-Rays by Re. 1.*

Sir, if the Military Assistant Surgeon is paid Rs. 380 a month for being trained in X-Rays, I wish to know whether he has not got other duties to attend to in the General Hospital; if so, why not debit this amount under that head? Granting that it is necessary to have an Assistant Surgeon trained in X-Rays, I ask why should a Military Assistant Surgeon be chosen for the purpose. He may be called away at any time for military duty and then we shall lose the benefits of the amount that we spend on him. Therefore, I ask why a Civil Assistant Surgeon cannot be given the training, so that he may be always available to us. We do not see any such item in the last Budget, and therefore I ask what is the necessity for it this year."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I support the motion, Sir."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I have already explained, Sir, that two officers have already been trained and a third is to be under training this year. No Civil Assistant Surgeon would be coming forward to undergo training in Radiology. Hence it was necessary to have a Military Assistant Surgeon trained. The hon. mover has asked me why it is that these people are given their pay during the time of their training. As a matter of fact, when they undergo training they are not given any other work. Hence it is that this amount is treated for this particular course of training."

[19th March 1923]

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister whether the fact that there will be a course of training in Radiology was intimated to all Assistant Surgeons and whether no Civil Assistant Surgeon was willing to undergo the training ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Yes. The fact was intimated and no Civil Assistant Surgeon was willing to take up the offer."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" I am surprised to hear this, Sir."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I cannot help it, Sir ; it is a fact."

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—" I beg leave to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

#### MOTION No. 162.

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,23,354 for matrons and nurses by Re. 1.*

I move this motion with the object of elucidating from the hon. the Minister what has been done in fulfilment of the promise which he made to this House last year when he said that the Government had taken steps to train Indian nurses both in the women's hospital and in the Gosha Hospital in all branches. The hon. the Minister then said that, when they came out of the training, they would be treated in the same manner as the European nurses. I submit, Sir, that from what I hear, nothing has been done to justify that hope. On the other hand, the reports I get from the Indian nurses in the General Hospital are very discouraging. They are put into sheds which cannot be called houses. They have no common room. They are not treated like ladies, and they are not paid enough. If the nursing institution is ever to succeed in this country, and if we are to have respectable Indian nurses, this is not the way to proceed. You must recognize the fact that if you want a good article you must pay for it liberally. Even so with the nurses ; if you want good nurses, treat them generously and respectfully. Indian ladies are by nature too shy to enter new fields and therefore additional care is necessary in this matter. I spoke about it during the Budget discussion last year and the year before last, and I do not see that anything has been done to improve the state of affairs. It is true that because a small private hospital had begun the work, the Government also took it up. If they are to look to it, they can do it on a decently grand scale with all their coffers at their disposal. But I am sorry to see that it is not done properly. I beg to suggest that if we want to have properly trained respectable Indian nurses to cater to the wants of patients and not to be ever depending on the small community of Anglo-Indians, something generous, something liberal, something radical should be undertaken. I propose that instead of indenting for matrons on Rs 300 and Rs. 500 from England, the local assistant matrons may be promoted to head matrons, and respectable Indian ladies be trained in nursing. Give them a scholarship of Rs. 50 a month, and, when they pass out, put them in a grade ranging from Rs. 75 to Rs. 150. That will work out at only 50 per cent of the expenditure that is now being incurred on European and Anglo-Indian nurses. The



19th March 1923]

[Dr. C. B. Rama Rao]

European and Anglo-Indian community is a very small one and the bulk of the people are Indians, so that it is only natural that we should go on improving in medicine and nursing as we have been hoping to in other walks of life. This step must be considered urgent and necessary and adopted at once. If the hon. Minister will kindly assure the House that something will be done this year at least in this direction, I shall be satisfied and withdraw my motion."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, the difference between the Indian and the Anglo-Indian nurses is shown not only in the pay but also in the tuition given. When the Military Surgeon instructs the nurses he is paid Rs. 50 ; when the Civil Assistant Surgeon teaches the nurses he is paid only Rs. 25. The Civil Assistant Surgeon is far superior to the Military being better qualified but he is paid less for giving instruction to the Indian nurses."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, I am in full sympathy with the object of the motion. But at the same time, Sir, the real difficulty is that it is almost impossible to get well-trained Indian nurses. Two schemes have been tried, one to train nurses in the Gosha Hospital and the other in the General Hospital. Both of them have not been so far successful. In the General Hospital the nurses are reported to have refused to work in men's wards. However, Sir, the Government have sanctioned recently a reorganization of nurses according to which both Indian and European or Eurasian nurses will get the same pay provided they have the same qualifications, and it is also arranged to have nursing institutes started in six mufassal hospitals. It is expected that in course of time there will be more Indian nurses coming forward to take their place in the hospitals of the Presidency."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—" I am thankful to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government for the assurance that the Indian nurses will in future be paid at the same rate as the Eurasian nurses provided the qualifications are the same. It is very easy for him to see that the qualifications are the same for he will get the proper persons if he will only apply to the Principal of the Queen Mary's College and the various high schools and boarding institutions of the Presidency. Of course, at first, the response will not be quite satisfactory and we will get only a small number and that, with hesitation. A good deal of persuasion and kind treatment will be necessary to break the ice. But when the first batch of people pass out and are installed as nurses on Rs. 75 on the same status as the Eurasian nurses, an impetus will be given to the movement and I am sure more women will flock to the nursing profession as there are ever so many who are wanting a profession but are afraid to tread new fields. As I said, it requires a little caution and generous treatment at the outset. With these words, I beg to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

#### MOTION No. 163.

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir I move—

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,11,300 for Presidency Hospitals by Re. 1.*

" My object in proposing this motion is to draw the attention of Government to the need for treating the local bodies substantially in the matter of

[Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu] [19th March 1923]

medical aid. Sir, I would only point out that the expenditure incurred in previous years on the Presidency hospital when compared with the expenditure proposed to be incurred in the next year is more than double. For, while in 1917-18 it was 7.05 lakhs, in 1923-24 it has gone up to 16.63 lakhs. In the course of these five years while the expenditure on Presidency hospitals has shown this increase, the treatment accorded to the mufassal hospitals who are the agency to carry medical relief in the mufassal is not so liberal. Far from it, the expenditure on them is in inverse proportion. Sir, the burden cast upon the local bodies by way of contributing to the services of the medical subordinates lent by Government which stood at 4.25 lakhs in 1920-21 has increased to 6.44 lakhs in 1921-22, to 6.55 lakhs in 1922-23 and in the coming year it is estimated at 11.65 lakhs. So the amount now to be borne by the local bodies is three times as high as it was in 1920-21. At the same time, the grants to the local bodies afford them no relief actually. It will be found that the grants to medical establishment and for buildings were 1.43 and 1.50 lakhs respectively in 1918-19 and in 1921-22, 1.07 lakhs for establishment and .47 lakh for buildings. In 1922-23 the figures show 2.30 for medical institutions and in 1923-24 the Budget provision is 5 lakhs. The grant that is at present proposed to be given to relieve the local bodies will really absorb the whole excess amount that they are to pay to the services of medical subordinates. How far the grant of 5 lakhs to the local bodies is going to relieve them of the current expenditure they have to incur by reason of taking charge of medical institutions it is quite easy to see. It is nothing more than a makeshift arrangement by which five lakhs are taken at one place and added at another and the grant can in no way be considered to afford them any relief. On page 157 of the budget, the total expenditure on mufassal hospitals and dispensaries is shown. Deducting recoveries from local bodies to the extent of Rs. 11.31 lakhs, the net cost is Rs. 8.44 lakhs. Last year the net cost for mufassal hospitals and dispensaries was Rs. 12.94 lakhs and the year before it was Rs. 12.24 lakhs. While the net cost incurred by Government on mufassal hospitals and dispensaries charged to provincial revenues is reduced by Rs. 4 lakhs in 1923-24, the amount paid by local bodies to the Local Government is increased by 5 lakhs: it was 6.25 lakhs in 1922-23 and in 1923-24 it is Rs. 11.31 lakhs, so that the cost to provincial revenues is thus reduced by 5 lakhs this year in connexion with these mufassal hospitals and dispensaries. Lower down, we find in the budget under the head 'Grants to hospitals and dispensaries' a contribution to local bodies towards the cost of medical institutions of Rs. 5 lakhs and lump grants for medical buildings, etc. I submit therefore that there has been absolutely no help at all given to the local bodies and that this item of grants to local bodies for medical institutions is not a real contribution, because what local bodies are asked to pay by way of 11 lakhs or an excess of 5 lakhs is simply being reproduced in the other head by way of grants.

"In these circumstances I submit, Sir, that the Government are adopting a policy which is highly prejudicial to the local bodies. Sir, this morning, if there was any one thing on which we were all agreed, it was this: that elementary education was to be considered a national charge and that Government ought to take it up as such, treating the local bodies as agencies for the spread of elementary education. I urge, Sir, that the same view must be taken of medical aid also. It is one of the national duties of



19th March 1923] [Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu]

the State, and the local bodies should be treated as mere agencies through whom the medical aid is given. I am afraid, Sir, that the hon. the Finance Member, practically anticipating this thing, has evidently stated that, if it comes to this, either you will have to give liberal grants to local bodies or the Government should take over the control of the medical institutions and run them themselves. That is a suggestion which in the speech introducing his Budget he has given . . . .”

Mr. E. S. LLOYD :—“ On a point of order, Sir, is the hon. gentleman in order in criticizing, on a motion relating to Presidency hospitals, the policy regarding mufassal hospitals? His argument is directed to the contributions to mufassal hospitals.”

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—“ I have moved a resolution to reduce the allotment for Presidency hospitals with a view to show the disparity in the treatment between the presidency hospitals and mufassal hospitals, and one of the ways in which this House can effectively deal with such a thing is by comparing the treatment accorded to Presidency hospitals with that accorded to the mufassal hospitals. So far as mufassal hospitals are concerned, the policy of the Government should be as liberal as it has been with regard to Presidency hospitals. That is my point in moving for a reduction in the grant to Presidency hospitals. While Presidency hospitals command greater attention from the Government, we from the mufassal are entitled to say that it is the duty of the Government to give greater relief to the local bodies in this respect, in addition to the usual grants given to the local bodies. Sir, it will be found clearly stated in the report of the Financial Relations Committee appointed in 1920 and presided over by no less a person than the hon. the Member for Revenue, that medical relief should be treated as an item that must form part of the provincial revenues and that liberal grants should be given to local bodies on that account. They recommended that one half of the total cost of the medical institutions should be paid by the Government, and in their financial forecast they estimated that the share which may fall to the provincial revenue would be 9.11 lakhs to meet this extra cost, and the Government paid only 1.47 lakhs in 1919-20 in aid of the medical institutions under local bodies. They proposed that all minor sanitary grants might be dispensed with and that an average of the minor sanitary grants for previous years which might come very nearly to the amount of excess expenditure which the Government were called upon to undertake might be given. Now, Sir, the Government have accepted that portion of the recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee which was favourable and acceptable to them, namely, that the minor sanitary grants should be done away with. What about the other part of the recommendation, namely, that an average of the minor sanitary grants be given in the form of a grant in aid of medical institutions? The Government is considering and considering it and has passed no orders at all. . . . ”

Mr. E. S. LLOYD :—“ On a point of order, may I say it has nothing to do with the subject of Presidency hospitals?”

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ That is the way in which by proposing a nominal reduction in a particular item they choose to traverse other subjects.”

[19th March 1923]

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—“ Thank you, Sir, for the ruling. It will be seen, therefore, that while this portion of the recommendation of the Financial Relations Committee, which immediately relieved the responsibility of the Government to contribute to local bodies, has been accepted, the other portion as regards the suggestion to regularise the system of helping local bodies in place of the minor sanitary grants, has not been accepted. Sir, from the very beginning of this Council we have been asking whether the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee will be given effect to or not; and it was said that they were under consideration. At last, in this Budget, the Government say that they cannot accept the recommendations of the Committee but that they are going to have a better report by appointing a new committee. We all know that committees are appointed for the purpose of doing some good, and though our experience of committees is that their reports are all shelved, in this case, we find only that portion of the report which favours the local bodies is shelved while that which concerns the Government has not been shelved.

“ I submit, therefore, that having regard to the step-motherly treatment accorded by Government to local bodies in respect of mufassal medical institutions, and having regard to the way in which medical institutions in Madras are treated, we, the representatives from the mufassal, must raise our voice of protest against the way in which the Government treats the local bodies and request the Government to see its way to accept that portion of the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee which goes to relieve local bodies. I therefore request the hon. the Minister and the Government that their first effort should be, in so far as any saving that may be effected by reason of the betterment of the excise revenue mentioned by the hon. the Finance Member in his Budget statement circulated to us is concerned, to utilise that income for the purpose of relieving the local bodies by giving effect to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee. Sir, having been here for three years, and having had the report of the Financial Relations Committee for three years, it will be sad to be told that the report of the Financial Relations Committee will not be given effect to, but that some other report will be called for. For what purpose, we know not. If it be for the purpose of lightening the liabilities of the Government we oppose it; but if it be for bettering the condition of local bodies we welcome it. I hope this House will strongly support the request to Government to accept the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee in so far as this particular point is concerned and to give effect to them immediately, if necessary by bringing in supplementary grants for this purpose.

“ For these reasons, I move my proposition.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. Lloyd, objected to the remarks of my hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, on the ground that what he was saying did not relate to Presidency hospitals. I hope, Sir, he will have no reason to lodge a similar complaint in regard to what I am going to say. I shall confine myself to hospitals in Madras and refer to some irregularities which, one is constantly told, are taking place.

“ First of all, there is a difference in regard to the treatment of Indian patients and Anglo-Indian and European patients. It is often said. . .”



19th March 1923]

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"How is that question relevant to the discussion, Sir?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I suppose there is something like dietary and medicine charges, etc., included in this allotment for Presidency hospitals, and I think I am within my right in referring to this question of diet and medicine."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"I think the hon. Member is right in referring to that question."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Very well, Sir. As I was saying Indian patients are not treated in the way they ought to be. They fare worse than the Anglo-Indian and European patients. For example, I would refer to one of the orders: that refined country arrack should be prescribed to Indian patients instead of brandy. This I think, Sir, is a very invidious distinction to make between one class of patients and another."

"Again, Sir, taking the question of diet in general, I find the cost varies very much between one hospital and another. In fact, last year, I ventured to bring this to the notice of the hon. the Minister. I said at that time :

Taking, Sir, one item, cost under diet, I find Rs. 1,45,790 were spent at the Government General Hospital, Rs. 56,960 at the Royapuram Hospital and Rs. 17,363 at the Royapettah Hospital. Of course, we have to take into consideration also the number of in-patients treated in these different hospitals, so that we may arrive at the relative cost per head. In the General Hospital the number of in-patients was 8,610, in the Royapuram Hospital 5,250 and in the Royapettah Hospital 2,717. The average, if it is worked out, will be found to be about Rs. 16 per head in the General Hospital, Rs. 10 in the Royapuram Hospital and Rs. 3 in the Royapettah Hospital.

"I think this may be partly due to the preferential treatment accorded to the European and Anglo-Indian patients. Even so, this difference cannot be fully accounted for in my opinion. I asked last time whether the Minister would look into the question and try to obtain some satisfactory explanation in regard to that."

"In the matter of purchase of medicines, I said :

As regards the medicines in the General Hospital Rs. 60,000 were spent; in Royapuram hospital Rs. 46,000; and in the Royapettah hospital Rs. 8,996. I wanted to see, Sir, whether the number of patients treated in these different hospitals varied in the same proportion but there is nothing of that sort, so far as the Royapuram and Royapettah hospitals are concerned."

Well, Sir, the difference has been really due to the purchase of more bazaar medicines in one hospital and less in the other hospital. That again was one of the points I submitted for consideration to the hon. the Minister, and I should like to know what has been done in regard to that matter, whether he has taken any steps to bring about economies in the direction pointed out last year."

"As regards the General Hospital, there are one or two things which, if true, should be looked into without any loss of time. We are told that the physicians there really use the hospital wards for their own private patients. These patients need only to have private consultation with the doctor and pay the usual fee of Rs. 15, and immediately arrangements are made for receiving them in the hospital. . ."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Can the hon. Member substantiate his observation?"

[19th March 1923]

**Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR** :—"That is an open secret and I do not think that either the hon. the Minister or anybody else is ignorant of these things. It is generally talked about that the surgeons and physicians have been putting in private patients in the hospital. I do not say that every surgeon does it. But my belief is that there are some surgeons and physicians who do use the hospital for the convenience of the patients who consult them privately. This is one thing. . ."

The hon. the **RAJA OF PANAGAL** :—"I am afraid, Sir, that the statement is quite unwarranted."

**Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR** :—"I think that it was given currency in the public dailies of this town. I want to know if the hon. the Minister has taken any trouble to contradict the definite statements made in the papers. Well, Sir, he does not answer. I take it then that there is no satisfactory answer to be given for these things."

**Mr. E. PERIYANAYAGAM** :—"I want to know whether the hon. Member has brought in any specific instances to the notice of the authorities."

**Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR** :—"I am not going to be cross-examined by the Minister as well as the Council secretaries."

**Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR** :—"Is the statement based on any anonymous communication in the papers, or was the article subscribed to by any man of position?"

**Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR** :—"Many charges made in the public press, though anonymous are immediately denied by the Government in communiques and Publicity pamphlets wherever it is convenient for them to do so; and I do not see why in this particular matter, my hon. friends are anxious to distinguish between anonymous and responsible articles."

"Well, Sir, I am told that in the General Hospital there is no covered corridor between different blocks of buildings and that patients who have to be carried on stretchers have to be taken in the sun and they are put to very great inconvenience. That is a thing which may be looked into, I have other things to say which probably I may say in connection with another motion."

The hon. the **RAJA OF PANAGAL** :—"Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, has been jealous of the treatment accorded to the  
3-15 p.m. Presidency hospitals. I am afraid he forgets the fact that God has created only one heaven for many worlds. So far as Madras is concerned, it is the Presidency town, and the institutions here should be ideal institutions and serve as examples to the mufassal institutions. It is therefore necessary that they must be kept in the best order possible. As to the treatment accorded to the mufassal hospitals, I have no doubt that if only our financial position could enable us, the Government would have gladly given greater financial relief to the local bodies in the matter of administering medical relief to the people. But, unfortunately, during these two or three years, on account of financial depression, it was found impossible to extend our generosity any further. My hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, referred to the figures of 1922-23 and 1923-24. The charges recoverable from other Governments, departments, etc., are Rs. 8,44,600 in 1923-24 and



19th March 1923]

[The Raja of Panagal]

Rs. 12,92,100 in 1922-23.\* My hon. friend forgets the fact that while contribution to the local bodies towards the cost of medical institutions in 1923-24 is 5 lakhs, it is 2'30 lakhs in 1922-23."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, may I point out that according to the budget estimate for 1922-23, a sum of 5 lakhs was budgeted for while a sum of only 2'30 lakhs appears to have been spent according to the revised estimate."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"A portion of it was given credit to towards recoveries from local bodies.

"It was pointed out that there was some variation between the cost of the diet and the charges in the General Hospital and other hospitals in Madras as compared with mufassal hospitals. Probably, the General Hospital is more costly because it has got a very costly establishment; while the other hospitals have got a less costly establishment. Anyhow, Sir, I will look into the several Presidency hospitals and see whether they can be brought more in unison with one another.

"My hon. friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, has referred to certain practices which he says are prevalent in the General Hospital. I emphatically repudiate that there is anything of that sort. If the newspapers indulge in such reckless allegations, it is not for the Government, unless they are subscribed articles, to enter into an examination of these facts. As a matter of fact it has not come to my notice that any such practice is prevalent either in the General Hospital or in any other Presidency hospital. As to the general question that medical relief should be a national charge, it cannot be denied that it is a semi-national charge, if not a national one. It is the duty of the Government to help local bodies as far as their financial position permits them to do so. As I have already stated, on account of the financial stringency, we have not been able to do better than what we are doing now, but I am sure, that as soon as our financial position improves, the local bodies can hope to get a greater share of help from the Government."

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, the hon. the Minister stated that I viewed with some jealousy the treatment meted out to the Presidency hospitals. May I make it plain, Sir, to the hon. Members of this House and through them to the outside public that I have absolutely no jealousy at all against the Presidency hospitals? My only request is that the same liberal treatment should be accorded to the mufassal hospitals as is done to the Presidency hospitals. I do want that more money should be spent on the Presidency hospitals as well as the mufassal hospitals. I do not want to say that money saved from the Presidency hospitals should be spent on the mufassal hospitals. That is not at all my point. My only point is that while ample provision is made for the Presidency hospitals, similar provision may be made for the mufassal hospitals also, and that their interests should not be ignored or forgotten.

"With regard to the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee it is stated that owing to the stringency of the financial position, it has not been possible for the Government to give effect to their recommendations. May I enquire, Sir, whether the same financial stringency would not have operated in the case of the Presidency hospitals? The only reason that I can

[Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu]

[19th March 1923]

assign is that these headquarter hospitals get the ears of the Government much sooner and they get at the hands of the Government a treatment much better than they actually deserve.

"With regard to the contribution to the local bodies, I am glad that the hon. Minister promised to examine the matter carefully. I hope that before the end of the year, the Government will willingly and cheerfully decide to bear one half of the charges of the medical institutions in the mufassal. I hope that relief will soon be given to the local bodies.

"Before I close, I wish to say once again that the question cannot be better examined by any other committee of greater status than the Committee which examined it in 1920. I beg to remind the House that that Committee was presided over by no less a veteran of local bodies than the hon. the Revenue Member. Many other experts, like Mr. Lloyd and Surgeon-General, Giffard, served on the Committee and they all submitted a unanimous report. I hope that the Government will give effect to their recommendations very soon."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

#### MOTION No. 164.

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—"Sir, I beg to move—

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,000 to lady doctor by Re. 1.*

My object in making this motion is to get information as to what work this lady doctor is doing and as to why any overseas allowance should be paid to her."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I have also tabled a similar motion simply for the purpose of ascertaining why a provision of Rs. 150 for overseas allowance is made in addition to the pay of Rs. 450 rising up to Rs. 850. I also want to know whether the lady has to be got from England or whether she is to be an Indian lady?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Sir, she is an Indian lady belonging to the Indian Medical Service for Women. She is entitled to overseas allowance because she belongs to that service."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

#### MOTION No. 165.

Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—"Sir, I beg to move—

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for chemico-legal purposes by Re. 1.*

Sir, I want to know why a sum of Rs. 4,000 is allotted under this head. Though a sum of Rs. 4,000 was provided in the Budget estimate for 1922-23, only a sum of Rs. 1,000 was spent as noted in the revised estimate for that year. The accounts for 1921-22 show that only a sum of Rs. 104 was spent during that year."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"That is for the upkeep and the repair of the instruments that will be required for the post-mortem examination."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.



19th March 1923]

MOTION No. 165.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Sir, I beg to move—

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,44,600 for mufassal hospitals and dispensaries by Rs. 1,000.*

Sir, at the outset, I may say that I have absolutely no objection to any place being declared a heaven, and as I have occasionally to come to this heaven, I will be glad if its pleasures are increased. I want to know what is the opposite of heaven. Is it that all the mufassal places which are not entitled to be heavens are to be the other thing? This motion is intended to make them at least ordinary human worlds. So far as these hospitals are concerned, I think my hon. friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, has fairly stated that while the one place which is already heaven is receiving more pleasures to increase its happiness, the other worlds are still where they were; not a pie is given to them to increase their pleasures and make them more enjoyable. In spite of the fact that we are all supposed to be progressive, we may say that, so far as the grants to the mufassal hospitals are concerned, the increase is practically nil. In view of the fact that we have had several windfalls in the course of the last few days, we want to know whether the mufassal hospitals and dispensaries can expect any help from the Government.

“ In this connexion, I want to bring to the notice of the Government another matter. Until more money is available for the mufassal hospitals and dispensaries, I want to know whether the Government have any idea of utilizing the services of private practitioners for these hospitals and dispensaries. We know that private medical practitioners have all along been crowding in the headquarters and they have not been going to the mufassal for private practice, because they are afraid that they cannot expect sufficient encouragement there. I therefore think that it is necessary both in the interests of the Government as well as in the interests of the private practitioners themselves that their help should be utilized by the Government in the mufassal. The private practitioners might be put in charge of some of these dispensaries and some allowance might be given to them. In several places, whenever this question of the opening of additional dispensaries arises, we know that the Government have invariably been answering that there will not be sufficient work in that place for a full-timed medical officer. I am sure that if sufficient encouragement is given, the private practitioners will be prepared to go and settle in mufassal taking charge of dispensaries.

“ As regards the question of using hospital medicines for practice, I wish to point out, without wounding the susceptibilities of the medical practitioners or the hon. Minister in charge of the department, that there will be no harm in the mufassal if the medicines are given to patients. In the mufassal the hospitals being the only places where medicines can be had, there can be no objection to allow this practice to continue. In fact, in many places, a small charge of two annas is taken for the medicines.”

[At this stage Rev. W. Meston took the Chair amidst applause.]

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Therefore, Sir, that question need not startle us; because, as a matter of fact, even now

the officers in charge of these dispensaries are utilizing the medicines in these dispensaries for the benefit of their own patients. The point has already been raised in connexion with the hospital at Coonoor,

3-30 p.m.

[Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar] [19th March 1923]

which is a big hospital, viz., whether a private practitioner may or may not be one of the officers connected with that hospital. But the case becomes more acute in places where there is no hospital or dispensary and where dispensaries can be started in large numbers if only the suggestion of appointing private practitioners, not as full-time officers, but only as half-time officers, comes to be adopted. Even though Government cannot make a heaven of such hospitals in the mufassal, they can at least make them like the ordinary world where people can go for treatment with safety. This can be done if only some petty sums are spent and some private practitioners are asked to take charge of them. Local bodies which are for increasing the number of dispensaries will thus be in a position to get the services of these people. This is a very important matter and I suppose it is at present engaging the attention of Government. If there is no objection, we shall be much obliged to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government if he says that he has this point under consideration, or that there is a chance of its being considered by the Government.

“One other point which I wanted to discuss in detail, and about which so many hon. Members also are anxious to know, is about the Committee on indigenous medicines presided over by Dr. Usman Sahib. We were told a few days ago that their report would be submitted to the Government shortly. I suppose that it has been submitted since and that the Government are considering the matter. Before the Government come to any definite conclusion regarding this and before they publish their orders, I would request the hon. the Minister to publish the report and invite the opinions of the public on it. We do not, of course, want the official correspondence to be published, but at least the report may be placed on the Editors' Table so that people may be in a position to express their views before the Government come to any definite conclusions on it. With these few words, I beg to make my motion.”

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—“Sir, I beg to say a few words on this motion to bring up the question that was raised by my friend, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, on an earlier motion. The provision that is now under consideration is not the contribution that is paid by the Government for the running of the mufassal hospitals by the local bodies. It is expenditure incurred by Government for the maintenance of institutions under their own charge. These institutions were taken over by Government from the local bodies only a few years back. It was part of the policy, I suppose, that is now sought to be pursued by the hon. the Finance Member with reference to the relief that is to be given to the local and municipal bodies. When these institutions were under the control of local bodies, they cost them about a quarter of what they cost Government at the present moment. So, the net result of taking over these institutions from the local bodies is the raising of the cost. Not only is this the case in regard to these institutions, but in almost every institution, whenever it is maintained by a local body, the cost is always very much less than what has to be incurred by Government whenever they take it into their head to have it under their own control. That has been the result in every case, whether it be an educational institution, a medical institution or any other institution. In this case also as I said the cost of running these hospitals and dispensaries has mounted to about four times the figure at the time when they were being run by the local bodies.



19th March 1923] [Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar]

I am putting the question straight to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government whether he is going to adopt the same policy with reference to the other hospitals and dispensaries also which are still under the control of the local bodies, and whether, if that is the advice which the hon. the Finance Member is prepared to give him, he is prepared to accept it. There is also the question of proper maintenance of these institutions and the expansion of medical relief in the local areas. If the other institutions under the local bodies are also going to be taken over by the Government, what is to become of all this expansion? That is a question which has to be seriously tackled. Are the Government going to say that they are going to take over, say, some 50 more institutions and run them themselves supplying the medicines, etc., or are they going to say that any further relief which has to be given should be undertaken by the local bodies themselves? That is a very serious question which will have to be considered before the proposal made by the hon. the Finance Member is accepted. There is the other question also, viz., the question of Local Self-Government. In all these cases, the idea is that those matters which very nearly concern the people ought to be managed by the local bodies locally and that it is only then that the best out of those institutions can be obtained. But we are going back upon that idea and we are going to centralise them. This is the effect of the advice given. I would request the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to consider this question seriously before he commits himself to any view. This, I may repeat, is a very serious question and affects the whole future policy.

“Then, there is the second question, viz., the relief that is going to be given to the local bodies. As I have said, if these institutions are going to be taken over by Government, they will cost a good deal more than what they will cost the local bodies themselves. At present, Government give a very small proportion of the expenditure on these institutions to local bodies. The total cost of medical institutions under the charge of local bodies which is borne at present by Government is, I think, about one-twelfth. Out of a total cost of about 26 lakhs, Rs. 2 lakhs and odd is all that is being given by the Government to meet this expenditure of the local bodies. As I said, if these institutions are going to be taken over by the Government, they will cost the Government not 26 lakhs, but very much more than that. So, for doing this work, what is the contribution that the local bodies should be given? This is a matter which the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government will have to clearly define. The Financial Relations Committee, about which Mr. Muniswami Nayudu spoke so much this morning, has stated that half the cost should be borne by the Government. Calculating on this basis the share to be paid by Government it will come to 12 lakhs; whereas Government have provided only 5 lakhs for contribution to be paid to local bodies; and I would request the hon. the Minister to consider whether he cannot raise it and put it on a satisfactory basis. Last year, the relief that was given was not based on any proper basis. What was given was a certain percentage of the additional pay which the medical officers were getting. The pay of these officers was raised by the Government without consulting the persons who had to pay it. Then, Sir, a proportion of that additional pay was all that the Government said they would undertake to pay to the local bodies. This is a very unsatisfactory state of things. The contribution from Government ought to be based on a proportion of the total

[Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar] [19th March 1923]

expenditure that is incurred on the medical institutions. The Financial Relations Committee recommended 50 per cent, and I would earnestly request the hon. the Minister to accept that recommendation. But in case the hon. the Minister is not in a position to accept and give effect to it in the coming year, I would at least request him to distribute the money at his disposal on a percentage basis that we might know on what basis it would be advanced and could ask for a further grant on the same basis, if necessary. This ought to be the method on which the distribution of grants should be made and it should not be done in a sort of haphazard fashion.

“I would also request the hon. the Minister to tell us what he is going to do with the 12 lakhs which are proposed to be given this year in addition to the usual contribution. I am sure the House will pass without any difficulty this additional 12 lakhs provided in the Budget. I should like to know what the proposals are for the distribution of this sum among the local bodies. A substantial portion of it should, I think, be included in the grant for medical relief. If 7 lakhs are taken out of it, this sum, together with the 5 lakhs that is provided now for contribution, will come to 12 lakhs, which will be 50 per cent of the expenditure that is incurred by the institutions. This will give a substantial relief to most of the taluk boards and municipalities that are now working at a deficit. So I would earnestly appeal to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to consider this suggestion which will also help him in finding a solution to the chronic state of poverty and bankruptcy of many of these local bodies about which so much was said by the hon. the Finance Member. I should very strongly take exception to many of the remarks made by the hon. the Finance Member the other day, and I shall no doubt take an early opportunity on some other motion of replying to those remarks. At the same time, at present, I would earnestly request the hon. the Minister to consider these suggestions and try to put the taluk boards and municipalities on a sound financial basis. With these few words, I support the motion.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—“Sir, the question which I wish to raise on this motion is the adequacy of the arrangements made for medical relief in the rural areas. The hon. the Minister just now informed us that there was an increased provision under this head for grants to local bodies and he wished us to understand that it was not possible for him to secure increased provision for the purpose of medical relief in rural areas. There is no doubt that the present facilities for medical relief in the rural areas are quite inadequate, and if we consider the institutions for medical relief distributed among the various districts, there are varieties of circumstances and it will be found that in several districts the medical relief provided is very inadequate, coming to very little. The problem for consideration is whether anything has been done within these two or three years for the purpose of providing additional medical institutions in any district in the Presidency. It is true that last year a provision of 5 lakhs was made in the Budget estimate, though only Rs. 2,30,000 were spent out of it. In the year to come, another provision of 5 lakhs has been entered in the Budget. Can the hon. the Minister tell us whether the amount which had been provided for last year went to any substantial extent for the purpose of opening additional hospitals or dispensaries in the various rural areas in the Presidency? So far as I am aware, Sir, almost the whole of the amount which the Government were in a position to place at the disposal of local



19th March 1923] [Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu]

bodies was utilized for the purpose of paying the increased salaries and allowances of officers. Let it be remembered in this connexion that the local bodies had no free voice in the matter. If the local bodies had the freedom of making their own arrangements regarding the pay and allowances, that would be one thing. They were called upon to pay all these officers who were lent to them by the Government at the rate prescribed by the Government; and as the increase was about Rs. 40 to Rs. 60, all the increased provision made by the Government was practically taken up for the purpose of giving them the increased salaries and allowances. I am not jealous, Sir, of the treatment accorded to the Presidency hospitals. It is quite true that we are not in a position to have our hospitals on up-to-date lines as hospitals in the Presidency town. But what I complain is that, when the Government were in a position to provide additional funds for introducing reforms and having modifications carried out in the Presidency hospitals, it has not been possible for them to provide additional facilities for hospitals in the rural areas.

"I find from the memorandum of the Budget, page 54, that the provision made for the year 1922-23 for the expenditure under the head of 'Medical Establishment' is Rs. 8.07 lakhs. In the revised estimate for that year the expenditure is Rs. 10.04 lakhs. In explaining the increase of expenditure this is what is stated :

3-45 p.m. The increase in the Revised estimate is mainly under reserve medical subordinates and under medical establishments in the mufassal. The Surgeon-General explains the increase under reserve medical subordinates as being due to the necessity for keeping medical officers on reserve duty owing to the inability of local bodies to open new hospitals and to the debit to this head of the travelling allowances of officers in local fund and municipal institutions transferred by the Surgeon-General on his own initiative.

"I wish to confine my attention to this question of provision for reserve medical officers on account of local bodies. It shows the consciousness on the part of the Government that the local bodies may open new hospitals, and that Government should provide for reserve medical officers. Under these circumstances I wish to ask if Government ascertained the capacity of these local bodies to open additional hospitals and made provision for that purpose. It is true that in the case of institutions opened after the year 1915, the Government agreed to pay half their cost. Even in giving effect to that intention, there have been several difficulties in getting sanction from the Government. Government have made no definite provision for opening new hospitals in the case of the local bodies. The provision that is made in the budget for opening new hospitals is highly unsatisfactory, whatever may be the increased provision made for appointments, under this item or that item. It is on this aspect that I wish to lay emphasis. I wish that the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government makes it a point not merely to satisfy himself for having provided two and a half lakhs or five lakhs for some items which are not of use to us, but that he should make a definite and distinct provision for the purpose of enabling the local bodies to open new hospitals in the year to come. If this is not done, I believe the expenditure provided will be highly unsatisfactory.

"I shall have to speak about the want of provision for hospitals of Ayurvedic and Indigenous systems of medicine. I do not speak on this point now. I have tabled a motion for the reduction of the total grant by

[Mr. A S. Krishna Rao Pantulu] [19th March 1923]

Rs. 100. When I speak on that motion, I intend to speak about the Ayurvedic and Indigenous systems of medicine and about hospitals giving such treatment."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I realize, Sir, that there has been a great deal of disappointment felt by the members of this House in regard to the provision made for the financial aid of the mufassal medical institutions, particularly those managed by local bodies. I have already stated to the Council that this is mostly due to the fact that the financial position of the province has not been what it ought to be. I hope, Sir, as soon as the financial position improves there will be greater relief given in one shape or another.

" My hon. friend from Coimbatore has raised a very interesting point in the course of his debate. He has asked me whether I have considered the question of allowing private practitioners to attend hospitals as honorary surgeons and physicians. I am glad to tell him that this very question is now engaging the attention of the Government. Some time back, when I visited Palghat, I saw a private hospital maintained by private practitioners. The hospital showed me an encouraging illustration of what private enterprise could do if only it was encouraged by the State. This question is engaging the attention of the Government just now.

" He has also asked me what the policy of the Government is in regard to the suggestions and recommendations made by the hon. Mr. Usman's Committee. Well, Sir, the report has been submitted, but we have had no time to investigate into the several questions raised in that report, and I shall certainly accept the proposal of my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, to have the report published in the papers so that the public may have a chance of informing the Government how the proposals of the Committee should be improved or whether they should be accepted as they are.

" My hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, also raised several important questions. He referred to a remark made by my hon. colleague, the Finance Member, in regard to the policy towards the institutions now managed by local bodies and asked whether they ought not to be given greater financial aid from the State. That is not yet settled, and, I believe, most of my hon. friend's remarks were really not called for, because so far as the administrative side of the policy is concerned, it is for the Minister and not for the Finance Member to decide."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" I only said, Sir, that an advice had been given by the hon. the Finance Member, and that I hoped and earnestly requested the hon. the Minister not to accept it."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Then he also raised the question as to how the 17 lakhs would be distributed among the local bodies. He wanted that a particular proportion, viz., 7 lakhs, should be earmarked for grants to medical institutions. This is a matter we have to decide after consultation with a committee which the Government propose to appoint ere long.

" Then, Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Krishna Rao, asked if the Government were going to have new medical institutions brought into existence. As a matter of fact, this matter is engaging the attention of the Government. A committee has been recently appointed to decide how these medical institutions ought to be maintained hereafter. According to the proposals



19th March 1923]

[The Raja of Panagal]

tentatively submitted by that Committee each taluk should have a medical institution, and, as for the rest, it is left to the option of the taluk board or local board concerned whether it should maintain it or not. But that is only a tentative proposal and the matter is still under investigation. With these assurances I trust my hon. friend will withdraw his motion."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I believe it will not be disputed that the medical aid available particularly in the mufassal is quite inadequate. It is, I think, necessary that medical aid ought to be given on a more extensive scale than is at present done to the people particularly in the mufassal. Whatever may be the efforts that may be made by the Government to increase the number of hospitals and dispensaries in the mufassal, I think that it will not be possible for them to increase them to so large an extent as to render medical relief available to all people. The western system of medicine is certainly a very useful one; but, as I submitted, though the Government may be prepared to spend a lot of money, it will ultimately touch only a very small section of the people. The only way, it seems to me, of remedying this defect is to establish hospitals and dispensaries based on the indigenous systems of medicine in different parts of the Presidency, on Ayurvedic and Unani systems. Some schools for these systems of medicine may be established in different parts of the Presidency and competent teachers may be appointed in them. Lecturers on Anatomy and Physiology may be appointed and they may be recruited from the graduates of either the Madras Medical College or any other medical College in India. Then a scheme of examinations for these students studying the indigenous systems of medicine may be adopted and those who have passed such examinations may be brought under the discipline and control of an officer to be appointed for the purpose. If such a system as this is adopted the people in the Presidency will be considerably helped. I may say, Sir, that such a system exists in the neighbouring State of Travancore, where it is found to work very well. There is an officer who is at the head of this department, called the Ayurvedic department, in that State, who is a graduate of the Madras University, and he is one who is well-skilled both in the theory and practice of the Ayurvedic system. Ayurvedic dispensaries have been established all over the State and they are under the control of the head of the department. I am sure my hon. friend, the Minister for Local Self-Government, has himself seen and, I am told, appreciated this system very much during his recent visit to Travancore. On a recent occasion, when I had the privilege of presiding over the Local and Municipal Conference in Tinnevely, I referred to this subject at some length and the Conference unanimously passed a resolution recommending to the Government the establishment of such schools, hospitals and dispensaries, and I believe the Government will find their way to accept the recommendation of that Conference. As regards the expenditure that will be incurred for the establishment of such hospitals, I may boldly say that the cost will be immensely less than what would be required to establish hospitals and dispensaries on the western system. I hope that the hon. the Raja of Panagal will bear this in mind and be able to find some funds out of the 30 lakhs so that he may divert them for the adoption of this suggestion."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I also should like to support the motion before the House. In doing so, I should like to associate myself with my

[Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

[19th March 1923]

hon. friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, in the remarks that he made. In the course of his reply, the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government referred to the question of financial stringency. May I be permitted to say that this question of financial stringency was not allowed to stand in the way of reductions being effected under certain heads of departments in order to allow increases under other heads beyond their legitimate claim? In this state of things, it is rather difficult for me to follow the arguments of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government with reference to the question of financial stringency. I submit it has no real meaning.

"In the course of the debate, a great deal of discussion centred round the provision that has been made to the Madras City Hospital. We have absolutely no quarrel for any amount being allotted to the Madras City Hospital for its being equipped on up-to-date and modern lines.

"But all that we submit is that the world is too big and that there may be big heavens and small heavens. We do not therefore want that mufassal stations should be relegated to the back-Hospital ground or should be treated as hells or worse than hells.

4 p.m.

"Now, coming to one item, viz., the diet of the patients in mufassal hospitals and dispensaries, an allotment is made for two lakhs. Compared with this, is an allotment of 3,80,000 for the Presidency hospitals which I dare say are few in number. All that I submit is that there is a great disparity so far as the allotment is concerned. A large number of hospitals spread all over the Presidency are grouped under the category of mufassal hospitals and dispensaries. My friend, Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, bitterly complained in the course of his speech of the difference of treatment that exists, or is supposed to exist, between two classes of individuals. I have absolutely no desire to raise a racial issue or racial question. The figures are there and they speak for themselves. I beg the Chief Minister to apply his attention to this question and see if he cannot make up his mind to raise the amount allotted to the mufassal hospitals."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I must say, Sir, that I am perfectly satisfied with the answer given by the hon. Member in charge of the department and I am very glad to withdraw."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 167.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—"I beg to move—

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,760 for Lawrence Memorial School, Lovedale, by rupee 1.*

That school, Sir, is intended for a particular community. Such being the case, why should we grant an amount of Rs. 8,760 for a particular purpose? They do not allow other Indians to get into the schools. I therefore object to it."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Sir, the Lawrence Memorial School is a sort of charitable institution maintained by endowments and other fees. If the Government are helping this institution it is by means of a grant. Instead of giving a money grant they are placing at the disposal of this



19th March 1923] [The Raja of Panagal]

institution the services of a medical officer. In fact, Sir, it is nothing more than a mere grant given to a charitable institution for whomsoever it is intended."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" If a grant is not to be given to this school simply because others are not allowed into it, I do not know how Government is giving a grant to various sectarian institutions such as the Pachaiyappa's College and others."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 168.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" I beg to move—

*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,98,600 for hospitals and dispensaries by Rs. 100.*

As I indicated already I wish to raise on this motion the question of the desirability of the Government offering definite encouragement to Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries and hospitals in the various rural tracts of this Presidency. I may inform the Government and the House that one of the main remedies which may be adopted to solve the problems connected with medical relief is the establishment of indigenous hospitals and dispensaries in large numbers in mufassal centres. The Government were good enough to encourage the establishment of these hospitals and dispensaries not by grants of money, not by any allotments from provincial funds, but by allowing local bodies within their own resources to maintain, help or establish them in the districts. In reply to a question, the Government merely stated :—

We have no objection to local bodies taking steps in that direction.

It will be remembered that this question has been before this Council as also before the public at least during the last nine years and steps have been taken from time to time to induce the State to afford direct encouragement to such institutions, the chief reason being that people have still faith in indigenous medicines. Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar has already drawn the attention of the Government and the House to the fact that a committee appointed in pursuance of the almost unanimous decision of this House set to work immediately and made its recommendations. The report is now before the Government. It will be noticed that that Committee lost no time in acquainting itself with the condition of similar institutions in various parts of India. Under the presidency of the hon. Mr. Usman it travelled to the various important cities in India where such institutions exist, collected information from eminent doctors and satisfied itself that the indigenous system of medicine is based upon scientific principles and that it deserves encouragement at the hands of the State. If I find it necessary to press this question at this stage, it is because the Committee,—I can assure the hon. the Minister—worked under great pressure, and lost no time in finishing the examination of various witnesses and in drawing up its report with the sole object that the Government would be able to make a budget provision for Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries in 1923-24. If the Committee, took considerable trouble to even select the witnesses to be examined, it is because they thought that valuable time would be lost in deciding this question, and because they thought that the Government should be pressed to come to an early decision with the hope that they would be able to provide funds for institutions to be started in 1923-24.

[Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu] [19th March 1923]

“The hon. Member said that Government have not yet come to a decision, and that they will publish the report and ascertain further views. May I inform him that they may publish the report, but they should not allow the publication of the report to be an excuse for further prolonging the decision? So long, Sir, my sad experience is, that when the Government are not ready to come to an early decision, they again publish reports for discussion and for opinions. This will take months together and no result will be arrived on it. Though I agree that the report which certainly furnishes sufficient materials for the Government may be published, I would particularly request the hon. the Minister to see that its publication will not form a ground for putting off the decision on this question which has been awaiting solution at least for the last nine or ten years.

“It is an acknowledged fact that the maintenance of these indigenous institutions will cost much less than those institutions where we have allopathic systems. We may inform the House that these are problems which are awaiting solution at present. Several taluk boards in my district passed resolutions suggesting the closure of the existing institutions and suggesting the establishment of institutions with Ayurvedic systems of medicine. Those resolutions were passed; but because the Government have not come to a decision on the matter, it was with very great difficulty that I could induce them to have patience and wait before they would launch at once upon a scheme of converting one institution into another. The reason which induced them to take this course is this. To maintain the present institutions at a high cost is a thing which is beyond their means. If on the other hand, they are encouraged to establish other institutions with doctors trained in well-known Unani and Ayurvedic colleges and institutions, it is certain that the cost of maintenance will be much less and within their means. I am therefore mentioning to the hon. the Minister that at present there are local boards which think that the time has come to introduce the indigenous systems, in the interest of economy. If the Government wait long to come to a decision they will be placed in a very unfortunate position, unless they are in a position to say ‘We will find funds for such institution’.

“Sir, I am aware that the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government is himself interested in the solution of this question. This question was considered at a meeting of this Council two years ago and there was no difference of opinion expressed here. Should we, even after the publication of the report wherein we find opinions of medical men who were examined and cross-examined, wait long before introducing steps in that direction? I would particularly request the hon. the Minister, even before he makes financial provision for these hospitals, to note that the time has come for a declaration of policy so far as these institutions are concerned. We have waited too long. Time was when, in 1913-14, this department of medical relief was in the hands of the Indian Member of the Executive Council, and when a resolution was brought by me the reply was, ‘This has to be decided by those who have a knowledge of the Western system of medicine. We have no means of deciding this question and therefore we cannot do anything at present’. I hope that will not be the reply of the Minister chosen by the people. That was the reply eight years ago. Now at least we are entitled to ask for a clear declaration of policy so far as these medical institutions are concerned. As for the funds, let the Minister come with supplementary grants as early as possible for an early solution of this



19th March 1923] [Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu]

question. These three years we have been pressing the Minister. Now at least we hope that he will not ask us to wait for any further time. With these words I move this motion."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" This is a motion for the reduction of a total grant. I take this opportunity to know one thing from the Chief Minister. The Government were pleased to issue an order in 1920 to establish a Medical College at Vizagapatam and also a Medical School at Guntur. But both these are deferred hopes. We know, as a matter of fact, that applications for admission to the Medical College at Madras are about 400 to 500 every year, and only 100 students can be taken into it. We know what useful work was turned out by the Medical School at Vizagapatam ; and how medical education has spread among the Telugu districts is within the knowledge of most of the members of this House. In these circumstances, I request the hon. the Minister to come with a supplementary demand very soon to fulfil the promise of the Government and the orders that have been already issued by the Government. We know that it is not an order issued by this Government. But I think in the ordinary continuity of policy the present Minister will keep the promises that have been already made by the Government in the past."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, hon. Members of this House may be aware that in the course of the general discussion on the Budget, I referred to this question of encouragement of the system of indigenous medicines and complained that no provision had been made in the Budget for this purpose. My hon. friend Mr. Krishna Rao dwelt at great length on the need for the encouragement of this system. To my mind, we have gone far beyond the stage of argument and persuasion in regard to this matter and have come to the stage of action. I wish to know, Sir, from the hon. the Minister what provision he is going to make for the furtherance of the object which has been long ago recommended by the committee and what steps he is going to take to further that object. That committee was a very representative one, composed of Hindus and non-Hindus, Brahmans and non-Brahmans, Christians and Muhammadans and the conclusions arrived at are unanimous. I think that at least a majority of this House are quite enthusiastic about the promotion of the indigenous systems of medicine and I wish only to know whether the hon. the Minister is going to fulfil the hopes he has held out to us."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I quite sympathise with the hon. Members who have spoken in favour of the rapid expansion of the indigenous systems of medicine in this Province. There are to my knowledge three systems of medicine. The first is the *Siddha* system. The difficulty here is that even Tamil Scholars cannot understand correctly what a certain term really means, whether it stands for a particular drug or for certain other drugs. If many mistakes are made by quacks, it is because of the lack of knowledge of the particular technical terms which are used in a very ambiguous sense in all the old treatises of medicine. The second is the Ayurvedic system. Here we have men quite conversant with western science and western methods of preparing medicines and also deeply versed in Sanskrit literature, combining, therefore, the advantages of what has been handed to them from olden times with the latest researches of medical science in the West and preparing medicines which are really very efficacious remedies. I know in very many villages these Ayurvedic medicines are very freely used.

[Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar] [19th March 1923]

"Thirdly, we have the Unani system, and many people, especially those who happen to live in the midst of Muhammadan brethren, have the knowledge and experience of the beneficial effects of Unani treatment.

"When we come to the question of cost, I think there is hardly any difference between any of these indigenous systems and the western system of medicine. I suppose we have to pay very often much less both for the medicines sold in pharmacies and for medical treatment at the hands of an L.M.P., than we have to pay for medicines prepared according to Unani or Siddha systems and for medical treatment at the hands of experienced Indian doctors. Again, considering the general apathy and ignorance of the people, I do not know whether the hon. the Minister or the Government or even the Members of this House who are responsible for the welfare of the many millions of people whom they represent here, will undertake the responsibility offhand of encouraging all these systems or enabling those who profess proficiency in these systems but hold no certificates to open pharmacies or medical shops anywhere and everywhere. My hon. friend Mr. Krishnan Nayar suggested the appointment of a medical superintendent. I doubt whether those who are well-versed in all these Indian systems will submit readily to the conditions laid down by a medical superintendent. There ought to be somebody, a duly certified doctor—Ayurvedic or Unani—or someone else who is looked up to as an authority in those systems, for issuing certificates to the effect that a person practising medicine has undergone a regular course of system, has undergone a regular apprenticeship and may therefore be safely trusted to prescribe or to diagnose. In the matter of hospitals, I do not think it will be more costly to have a hospital such as the local fund hospital with a responsible officer and one or two compounders than to have an Ayurvedic or Unani hospital in rural areas. There is a philanthropic gentleman in Trichinopoly, Prasanna Venkateswara Rao, who has opened a beautiful hospital at Srirangam which is very popular. But all the same the municipal hospital is equally and even more popular. This shows that naturally people have greater confidence in hospitals conducted and run by, and staffed with, men who have undergone a regular system of training in medical schools and who can diagnose diseases properly and are known to devote themselves whole-heartedly for the welfare of the people. These are things which will have to be very carefully considered before we embark on a policy offhand of allowing a number of these Indian doctors who have a knowledge, perhaps a smattering knowledge, of medicine, to begin to practise."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Mr. President, Sir, in the course of his speech, the hon. mover has referred to the Minister himself being interested in the solution of the question. That remark of his is significant. At all events, he saves the Government from the charge of being not sympathetic with this question of giving encouragement to the indigenous systems of medicine. As hon. Members are aware, a committee was appointed with Muhammad Usman Sahib as president. The committee toured through the important stations in the presidency and have submitted a report quite recently. In this connexion, I must say that the thanks of the Government are due to the distinguished president and members of the committee. They have spared no pains in making the report as complete as possible. Sir, the report was received by the Government only a few days back and as my hon. friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar has suggested, it is necessary that the report should be published, so that the public may have a chance of criticizing



19th March 1923]

[The Raja of Panagal]

the proposals of the committee. Sir, my hon. friend, the mover, thought that by taking time, there may not be an opportunity to make provision in this respect in the coming year's budget. Sir, the report was received by the Government practically after the budget was presented to this Council. So no provision could have been made in the budget. But at the same time I assure hon. Members that no opportunity will be missed to make a provision as early as possible, even by re-appropriation, as soon as a decision is arrived at upon the proposals submitted by the committee. In any case, Sir, it is necessary that the report should be published. It is only then that we will know how far those proposals will stand the test of criticism. The hon. mover also advised me that I should, as soon as possible, make a declaration regarding the policy. I give him the assurance that, as soon as possible, I will make a declaration of policy in regard to this important question.

"Sir, my hon. friend from Vizagapatam has introduced his hobby in this connexion. He has asked me what became of the proposals to open a medical college at Vizagapatam and a medical school at Guntur. These are proposals which have been for a time in the air and I am sorry that effect could not have been given earlier. But however attempts will be made to open these institutions in July next year. (*Cries of hear, hear.*) I hope there will not be much difficulty in finding funds, because the Medical Department have been able to effect a great deal of retrenchment. If my hon. colleague, the Finance Member, were here, I would have appealed to him to expedite the consideration of the financial position to enable me to open these institutions in July next. I hope that with this assurance my hon. friend will withdraw his motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

#### MOTION No. 169.

Rao Rahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—"Sir, I beg to move—

*To omit the allotment of Rs. 24,500 for investigation of hookworm disease.*

This is a subject which has come before this House year after year, and I do not want to weary the House by repeating what I have said already, namely, that it is almost an universal disease, that 95 per cent of the population are reported to be suffering from it, that the medicines used for the treatment of this disease are very few and that they are being very carefully investigated by scientists after scientists. India is not the only country where this disease prevails. The richer and more advanced countries in the west suffer from this disease and have liberally allotted funds and encouraged their medical graduates to undertake research work in this field. It is, therefore, in my humble opinion, superfluous at this stage of financial stringency, to embark on a separate investigation of our own. The United States' Government have sent down a doctor who seems to have been doing some work recently. Dr. Marcara has been doing some work in the southern districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, etc., for years and he has sent very valuable reports to journals and has contributed considerably to the literature on the subject. If anything more is to be done, we have the King's Institute of Preventive Medicine at Guindy whose staff is being paid on a very liberal scale and they can very well undertake the work, if, for nothing else, at least to justify the Institute's name. I therefore consider that it is inadvisable and unnecessary to incur this expenditure. If anything

[Dr. C. B. Rama Rao]

[19th March 1923]

has to be done and the Surgeon-General has any special scheme, it can be entrusted to one of the Members of the Provincial Medical Service who can work in one of wards of the General Hospital with the help of the small laboratory attached to it."

4-30 p.m. Mr. M. APPALANARASAYYA NAYUDU :—" Sir, I beg to support the motion made by Dr. C. B. Rama Rao."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, it is already settled that 99 per cent of the people of this presidency have got hookworm, and so instead of wasting money . . . ."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Am I to understand, Sir, that the doctor opposite disputes that proposition ?"

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" It is almost settled by the members of this profession that 99 per cent of the people of this presidency do harbour hookworm, and the only thing left is to give them treatment. So instead of wasting this money on further investigation, I strongly urge that this money may be utilized for the treatment. With these remarks, I support this motion."

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, Mr. President, it is because 95 per cent of the people are affected by this disease, we should spend much more money to make our people efficient. One of the most characteristic features of this disease is lethargy. Not to speak of the serious consequences of this disease on the health of our people, we have to consider this most important fact, namely, that our clerks and labourers are not doing the proper amount of work which they are expected to do if they are not affected by this disease, only because they are suffering from this disease. So in order to make our clerks, our labourers, and even our statesmen (*Laughter and cries of 'Hear, hear'*) more efficient, it is our duty to see that we have got a special establishment to attack this disease. The Rockefeller Institute very long ago sent an expert officer, and our assistant surgeons and sub-assistant surgeons are being trained under him. This establishment is only temporary for one year or so, and as soon as most of these people are trained, the department will be transferred to the district medical authorities."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Here again, Sir, I am placed in a very unfortunate position. There is divergence of opinion among the doctors themselves."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHARAJU :—" Doctors do differ."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Yes, doctors do differ and so in this case the Government are placed in a difficult position. Are we to follow the doctors opposite, or the doctors on this (right) side of the House ?"

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" It would be safer to follow the doctors on this (left) side."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—" Even if doctors differ, we have 3 for, and 1 against."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" But there is the Surgeon-General sitting there (*pointing to the Secretaries' bench*) and I have had the benefit of his opinion, and I cannot ignore it altogether."

"Well, Sir, whatever it is, the hookworm campaign is not merely a campaign by investigation and treatment, but it is also a campaign of education by way of propaganda work, and that has been done most economically."



19th March 1923]

[The Raja of Panagal]

by this Government as the pay and allowances of the specialist are met by the International Institute of New York. Sir, as Dr. Rama Rao himself admitted, this has been more or less a general disease in this presidency. As such, the havoc that it is doing among the people of this presidency is very considerable, and it is necessary therefore that the Government should take special care in this connexion. As a matter of fact, the work that Dr. Keneric has been doing has been fruitful in relieving thousands of people from this most fell disease. As a matter of fact, he has recently begun an intensive campaign not only of giving treatment but also placing before the people the fact that if they are treated for this disease, their general health would improve. In these circumstances, it would be not only bad economy but cruelty on the part of the Government to put a stop to this treatment."

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. RAMA RAO :—" Sir, if the hon. the Minister can assure us that he will put a stop to it, I am sure the House would be willing to vote not only this amount but ten times more than that. But I know, and the public also know, the impossibility of doing it. What is required is to improve the general health of the people and teach them how not to infect the soil, and this requires health propaganda all over the presidency not merely in the towns where Dr. Keneric may cater to a few thousands. There are millions to be catered for, whom he cannot possibly reach. I think this expenditure would be a sheer waste of money. I do not say that it does not do any good, nor do I say that investigation is not necessary. What I say is that it is being done by more competent, richer and better provided persons, who have got laboratories, and we need not waste money, from the poor man's point of view."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, I cannot quite follow the argument of my hon. friend. He says that investigation is being done elsewhere. Does it mean that we should not do it? He says that the benefit does not reach all people. Are we to desist on that account from pursuing it? If at least we can reach some people, it would be a great thing. Under these circumstances, I am afraid I cannot accept the motion."

The motion was put and declared lost.

Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao demanded a poll. When it was about to be taken he said : " May I withdraw my request for a poll ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" No, that cannot be done."

The poll was then taken with the following result :—

#### Ayes.

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. M. Appalanarasayya Nayudu.            | 6. Mr. M. Suryanarayana Pantulu.   |
| 2. Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu. | 7. Rao Bahadur Dr. C. B. Rama Rao. |
| 3. Diwan Bahadur L. A. Govindaraghava Ayyar. | 8. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao.          |
| 4. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu.    | 9. Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.      |
| 5. " C. V. S. Narasimha Raju.                | 10. " M. K. Seturathnam Ayyar.     |
|  | 11. " S. Arpudawami Udayar.        |

#### Noes.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter.                         | 4. The hon. Rai Bahadur K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. |
| 2. " Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur. | 5. " Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro.                    |
| 3. " the Raja of Panagal.                                  | 6. " Mr. A. R. Knapp.                            |

[19th March 1923]

## Noes—cont.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 7. The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.     | 25. Mr. V. Pakkiriswami Pillai.          |
| 8. Mr. E. S. Lloyd.                        | 26. " P. T. Rajan.                       |
| 9. " A. Y. G. Campbell.                    | 27. Diwan Bahadur K. Suryanarayanamurti  |
| 10. " C. Madhavan Nayar.                   | Nayudu.                                  |
| 11. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai. | 28. Rao Bahadur C. Venkata Ranga Reddi.  |
| 12. Mr. E. F. Thomas.                      | 29. Diwan Bahadur R. Venkataratnam       |
| 13. " E. Periyannayagam.                   | Nayudu.                                  |
| 14. " A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.              | 30. Mr. S. Muttumanikkaiahariyar.        |
| 15. " S. T. Shanmukham Pillai.             | 31. Rev. W. Meston.                      |
| 16. Rao Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.   | 32. Mr. A. T. Palmer.                    |
| 17. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chetti. | 33. The Raja of Ramnad.                  |
| 18. Rao Bahadur T. Falaji Rao Nayudu.      | 34. Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan.           |
| 19. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.       | 35. " C. R. T. Congreave.                |
| 20. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi.                | 36. Khan Sahib Saiyid Diwan Abdul-Razaag |
| 21. Rao Bahadur O. Tanikachala Chettiayar. | Sahib.                                   |
| 22. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar.        | 37. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib.   |
| 23. " B. Muniswami Nayudu.                 | 38. Rao Sahib P. Venkatarangayya.        |
| 24. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar.       | 39. Mr. A. M. MacDougall.                |

The motion was lost, 11 voting *for* and 39 *against* it.

The time allotted for the Demand No. XVIII, Medical, having expired, the demand was put to the House and carried. The grant was accordingly made.

## DEMAND XIX—PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, I beg to move Demand No. XIX for a grant not exceeding Rs. 21.90 lakhs for Public Health and Vital Statistics."

## MOTION No. 170.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move that—

*The allotment of Rs. 42,200 for Assistant Directors of Public Health be reduced by Rs. 16,500.*

Sir, the allotment that is made in the budget is for five assistant directors, and my object in making this motion is to reduce the number of Assistant Directors from 5 to 3. Last year I raised the question of the policy of having these Assistant Directors and posting them in the mufassal and giving them jurisdiction over a number of districts. Then I pressed the view that there was no necessity for a number of officers like this to go and do inspection work simply multiplying the work of the District Medical and Sanitary Officers and Presidents of Local Boards. Then the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government was pleased to say that as soon as district health officers were appointed, he would consider the question of reduction. The Government have passed an order that district health officers are to be appointed in each district from the 1st April next. So, the time for the consideration of that matter has come and I press before him the necessity for reducing the number and taking away the present work from these officers. The work I would suggest to be done by the men to be retained is somewhat like this. I do not want that there should be any territorial redistribution of work among these Assistant Directors. I do not want them to be brought in as a sort of intermediaries between the district health officers and the Director of Public Health. It has been our complaint in regard to all departments that without any necessity such middlemen and middle officers have been created in large numbers, and I do not want that in this Public Health Department another link should be forged which we would have to get rid of later on.



19th March 1923] [Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar]

“Also there is no necessity for these officers. There will be the district health officers who will be looking after the health conditions of the districts. I am very doubtful of the necessity even for the district health staff. There is another motion tabled with reference to that. So, I do not want to take up any time of this Council on that matter. There is absolutely no necessity for these intermediary officers. I am prepared to allow three people to continue and for these reasons. One will be in charge of the statistics in the office as at present; one will be for general assistance, and he will go and inspect where necessary; and the third person will be in charge of epidemics and pilgrim centres as at present. So, Sir, these three men will be quite ample for the needs of the Presidency and the two additional officers are quite unnecessary. With these words, I move the motion standing in my name.”

Rao Bahadur T. BALAJI RAO NAYUDU :—“Sir, I beg to support the motion. I do not think the intermediary officers are of any use. The Surgeon-General can manage the department with the help of the local officers. These assistant directors cannot supervise the health conditions as efficiently as the local officers. I am not talking now of the district health officers. There is a separate motion on the subject. With these words, I support the suggestion made by Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“Mr. President, Sir, the provision of Rs. 42,200 is intended to cover the pay of the five assistant directors of public health. In fact, there were six appointments of assistant directors sanctioned but on account of the financial stringency the Government decided to keep the sixth place vacant last year, and this year too they have adhered to the same decision. That is the reason why we have made provision only for five assistant directors.”

“This cadre began long ago with one Deputy Sanitary Commissioner. In 1913, two more appointments were sanctioned, and the last of the three appointments was made only in 1918 for want of proper candidates. In 1920, the Surgeon-General proposed to have the strength increased to six and the Secretary of State sanctioned it. In spite of it, the Government thought that it was not necessary to appoint the sixth officer. My hon. friend from Coimbatore reminds me of the assurance I gave him when this question was discussed in this Council at the time of the last Budget. It is true that I did tell him that the Government would consider the question of reduction when the health officers are given to the districts. Now that the district officers are likely to be given to the districts it is time for consideration and I assure my hon. friend that the matter is already engaging the serious attention of the Government, and in fact proposals have been made for reduction although no decision has been come to as yet. I can assure the hon. Member that there is every possibility of reduction, and with this assurance I expect my hon. friend to withdraw his motion.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MOTION No. 171.

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—“Sir, I move—

*To omit the allotment of Rs. 80,845 for District Health Officers and special pay.*

Sir, I do not deny the importance of public health. On the contrary, I am one of those who think that enough money has not been spent on the improvement of health in the districts. But I wish to know the special

[Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder]

[19th March 1923]

reason for the creation of a new department throughout the Presidency. So far as my experience goes, I am unable to find any immediate cause which can justify the formation of this department. But in my quest for information on this matter, I came across a Government Order—G.O. No. 1096, L. & M., dated 21st June 1922—from which I found out how the whole scheme was based upon the Government of India's sanitary policy. The organization proposed therein seems suited to the purposes which the Government have in view, but in actual practice it will absorb a very large sum of money. There is also reference in the Government Order to the strong support the scheme received at the hands of local and municipal conferences. This was considered a sufficient justification for introducing the scheme. But I am afraid the scheme has been launched without a thorough examination. Beyond serving the mere object of getting a larger concentration of authority and the credit of controlling an army of officers whose work is chiefly advisory, I do not think that the country is going to get any substantial benefit in proportion to the expenditure involved. Generally speaking, all that these new officers are asked to do is to attend to such kinds of work as can easily and more efficiently be attended to by non-technical local officials and men of common sense. This work is not of a nature which requires the skill of a highly trained staff. The funds we can command for such purposes are very limited, and so, going into the question a little more in detail, let us find out the nature of work that is expected to be turned out by this costly establishment. The works proposed to be done by this highly trained staff are well-digging, converting step wells into draw wells, cleaning wells and village drainage and removing congestion, etc. Among contagious diseases, cholera, plague and smallpox are said to be included in the scope of their work. Vaccination is said to be included in this new department. I ask: what is the defect noticed in the existing arrangements?

"Then, again, there is difficulty in supervising this work. The new staff cannot do this work as efficiently as the local board presidents and members of local boards and municipalities. On account of the transference of the local fund work from the hands of the district revenue officials, they have lost all interest in that line of work. I admit to a certain extent the difficulty of the presidents of local boards and chairmen of municipalities who are honorary gentlemen and also mostly very busy people to devote sufficient time to supervise their works.

"It is said that the present sanitary staff is inexperienced, but no reasons have been given as to how they were found inexperienced and how the existing system was a failure. The failure is certainly not due to the low grade of the sanitary staff, but it is due more to want of funds and supervision. Apart from being merely advisory, what this superior staff is going to do I cannot for a moment understand. From the experience I have had of my district where outbreaks of contagious diseases are frequent, these sanitary staffs, which are called special plague staffs or cholera parties, have not done or suggested anything more than what the village munsifs, unions or panchayats, and people of common sense, are by experience capable of doing. What they actually do is to put some potassium permanganate into the wells or do some advisory work. So, no case can be made out for the creation of this costly staff.

"Sir, in examining the provision made for the health officers, we shall find that a sum of Rs. 1,74,000 has been taken from grants to local boards from the allotment usually provided for the improvement of second-class roads.



19th March 1923]

[Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder]

And this new district health department is said to be a rapidly growing one. I think, Sir, the whole scheme inaugurates a very dangerous policy. The importance of road improvement is subordinated to this newly created health department, while everywhere the cry is for more and more money for improving communications in rural areas, viz., the second-class roads. We are told that the appointment of health officers was made in five districts as an experimental measure only so recently as last year. We have not been favoured with an account of this experiment. It is too soon to decide the success or failure of this experiment. I think it is better to wait some time more and decide when we have known the result of the work of these health officers in the five districts. We cannot afford to lose one pie out of the allotment for the improvement of roads in rural areas. We know the hon. the Finance Member has understood well the importance of road improvement; for, I remember, he hinted in his last Budget speech that our country, when compared with advanced western countries, was the least taxed in point of improving the resources of local boards. It is a well-known fact that the conditions of our country, as things stand at present, will not permit of any further taxation. So, any new undertaking to which we commit ourselves will land us in future difficulties in that line. Unless we, as experienced men, are able to turn to better account the resources that we now command to the satisfaction of our own conscience and of our electorate, we have no right to subscribe ourselves to schemes which will ultimately lead us to consent to further taxation.

"We are now increasing the number of panchayat courts, unions, co-operative societies and such other bodies in rural areas. Why cannot these institutions, which possess better knowledge of local conditions and requirements, be induced to undertake these works? We have also heard that certain co-operative societies in rural parts have voluntarily discharged similar public duties to satisfaction in their respective areas. Why cannot inducements, by way of grants of money, be given to increase their interest and to make them feel a sense of responsibility? If such and similar lines are adopted instead of spending money on the creation of establishments, much useful work will be turned out and the money allotted for it now will go directly to serve the object. And when its usefulness is appreciated by the masses, then only will be found a feeling of satisfaction among the rural population. What these panchayat courts, unions and societies might feel here and there, apart from the want of money grants, is their incapacity to carry out effectively their duties for which certain powers might be given to them wherever necessary. Medical relief was said to be very insufficient in rural areas as expressed by hon. Members on the previous resolution. These funds may well be utilized in opening dispensaries in suitable centres in the mufassal. The officers in charge of these institutions may be made to do some supervising work also under the local boards. Unani and Ayurvedic systems, which are much cheaper, may with greater advantage be introduced as we hear much of their popularity and success in several localities in the Madras city.

"With these words, I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House."

The House adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. the next day.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,  
*Secretary to the Legislative Council.*



511